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THE HINDU

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Ukraine keeps up momentum, claims it reached Russian border
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NEARBY

COMED-K policy: HC notice to State, AICTE

BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government, the AICTE, and other authorities on a PIL petition, which questioned the legality of the counselling and fee refund policy of the COMED-K.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

1,433 transformers yet to be relocated: Bescom

BENGALURU

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Bescom) on Monday told the High Court of Karnataka that so far 4,351 out of a total of 5,784 transformers on footpaths in Bengaluru city have been either shifted to different locations or replaced with spun pole structure.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

A bus for children to learn and play

BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) started a programme called "Wonder on Wheels'" across the city on Monday by procuring 10 buses from Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Hindu women's suit in Gyanvapi case maintainable, says court

'It's confined to right of worship... not conversion of mosque to temple'

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

A Varanasi district court on Monday dismissed an application filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenging the maintainability of the suit filed by five Hindu women seeking the right to worship Hindu deities within the Gyanvapi mosque premises all year round.

District judge A.K. Vishvesha ruled that neither the Places of Worship Act, 1991, nor the Waqf Act, 1995, nor the U.P. Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983, bar the suit and that the "plaintiffs will have right to prove their averments by cogent evidence". The next hearing is slated for September 22.

The suit, filed by Rakhi Singh and four other women, claimed Hindus had been worshipping Maa Shringar Gauri, Lord Ganesha and other visible and invisible deities daily at the said property till as recently as 1993, after which the Uttar Pradesh government restricted the worship to one day a year.

Based on this averment of the plaintiffs, the court rejected the arguments that the Places of Worship Act, 1991 barred the suit. It ruled that to decide the challenge to the maintainability of the suit under Order VII, Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure, it only needed to consider the averments made by the plaintiffs and not the defence of those averments.

"Therefore, the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 does not operate as bar on the suit of the plaintiffs and the suit of plaintiffs is not barred by Section 9 of the Act," the court ruled.

The 1991 Act seals the religious character of all places of worship as it stood on August 15, 1947, and mandates that any case seeking the conversion of such a place into that of another religion should be abated.

The court noted that the suit filed by the Hindu women "is limited and confined to the right of worship as a civil right and fundamental right as well as customary and religious right". The court emphasised that the suit neither sought a declaration or injunction over the property in question, nor did it seek the conversion of the mosque into a temple.

"The determination of religious character is a matter of evidence which can be laid by either of the parties. The plaintiffs have laid foundation to establish that the religious character of the property in dispute was of Hindu temple and deities were being worshipped within the property in dispute," the court said. "Therefore, the parties to the suit are required to prove before the court regarding the religious character of the property as was prevalent on August 15, 1947."

Further, citing the Supreme Court's Ayodhya judgment, the court asserted, "Even where the idol is destroyed or the presence of the idol is intermittent or entirely absent, the legal personality created by the endowment continues to subsist," and that it does not result in the termination of the pious purpose and the subsequent endowment.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Nod for prayers: Hindu petitioners celebrating the court verdict in Varanasi on Monday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

BJP leaders hail ruling

BJP leaders across the country welcomed the court's decision. While the lone Muslim face in the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, Danish Azad Ansari, said everyone should adhere to the verdict, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi feared the order would have a "destabilising effect". "We're going on the same path as the Babri Masjid issue," he said. ▸ PAGE 10

Retail inflation resurges to 7% as food prices mount

Industrial output growth in July drops to 2.4%

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

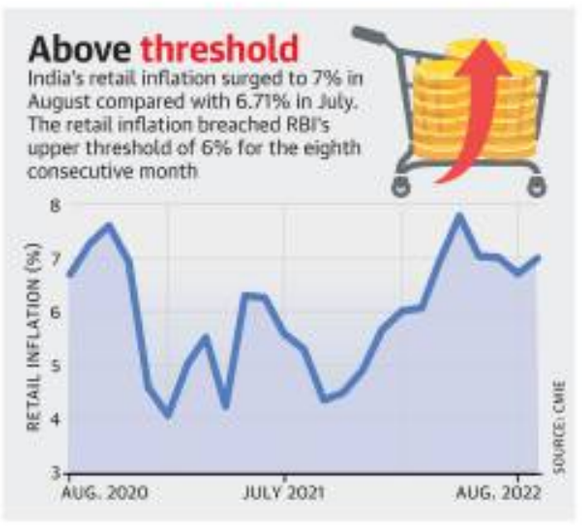
India's retail inflation resurged to 7% in August from 6.71% in July, fuelled by a 7.62% uptick in food prices paid by consumers, even as industrial output growth in July dropped to the lowest level since April at just 2.4%, with output levels dropping 2.75% month on month.

This is the eighth successive month that retail inflation has stayed above the central bank's upper tolerance threshold of 6% inflation for the economy, and constitutes a setback to households' spending power among the poorer sections.

The combination of buoyant inflation and a tripping industrial recovery would make the central bank's task trickier at the upcoming monetary policy review at the end of this month, where economists expect a fresh interest rate hike ranging from 35 to 50 basis points. One basis point equals 0.01%.

Rural inflation that was at 6.8% in July, saw a sharper rise than urban inflation in August, rising to 7.15%. Urban consumers' inflation rate moved up from 6.49% in July to 6.72%.

Consumer non-durables' production dropped 2% in July from a 2.96% uptick in June. Capital goods production recorded the highest growth among use-based categories at 5.8%, but contracted sequentially in July by 6.7% from June levels.



Rural stress

Although the low industrial growth is partly a function of the base effect as the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown 11.5% in July 2021, Deloitte India economist Rumki Majumdar linked the contraction in non-durable goods to rural households being under stress which has impacted demand.

The elevated inflation also means household budgets would be affected, particularly lower income segments, as food and related items make up a higher share of their consumption basket, said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy adviser at EY India.

The uptick in inflation was largely driven by "a broad-based rise across the food segment", with a higher inflation in cereals, pulses, milk, fruits, vegetables and prepared meals and snacks, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

BBMP begins demolition of illegal structures on SWDs

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Following the recent flooding and large-scale damages in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) started an anti-encroachment drive to remove illegal structures that have come up on storm-water drains in several areas of the Mahadevapura zone.

The civic body came down heavily on the encroachers coinciding with the commencement of the 10-day monsoon session of the Karnataka State legislature on Monday. BBMP officials, along with marshalls and police department officials, began the anti-encroachment exercise at 15 places in Mahadevapura, which were allegedly causing flooding.

Raghavendra, Assistant Executive Engineer, (Mahadevapura Zone) said, "We have surveyed and identified the SWD encroachments to remove structures on drains that were choking the flow of rainwater."

The BBMP is also removing structures on a school playground and garden which had encroached on storm-water drains. The civic body has identified and demolished the illegal structures in Challaghatta, Chinnappanahalli, Basavanagar, and SR Layout in Basavanapura ward in Mahadevapura zone. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said all the properties marked as illegal encroachment had been served notices and action was being taken as per the Revenue Act.

"Both storm-water drains and lakes come under the ownership of the Karnataka Land Revenue Department. The survey is been conducted by the tahsildars, and they have also issued a notice, while BBMP is implementing the anti-encroachment drive." "We will continue to mark the areas where encroachment has been reported, and will remove them in all the zones in the coming days," he added.

RELATED REPORTS ▸ PAGE 2

It's BBMP's failure: HC

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that the failure of the BBMP to perform its statutory duties of removal of encroachments on storm-water drains has given rise to the recent situation of inundation of several parts of the city due to unprecedented floods caused after heavy rains. ▸ PAGE 2

On the bubble

Toy power: This woman has come all the way from Rajasthan to make a living in Visakhapatnam by selling China-made toys. Spotted on the Station Road, she has battery-operated bubble maker guns on offer on Monday. • K. R. DEEPAK

Eastern borders stable, says Commander Kalita

India, China disengage from PP15

DINAKAR PERI
KIBITHU (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Theatre has been stable and "no major changes or palpable shift of stance" has been noted since the stand-off in eastern Ladakh, Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General R. P. Kalita said here. There were reports of continued infrastructure development by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and it was being monitored constantly, he said.

His comments came a day after India and China announced disengagement from Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh. The process of disengagement was completed on September 12, while the other friction points of Depsang and Demchok remain to be resolved.

"On our own side, there is a focused approach to improve the infrastructure by adopting a 'whole of government' approach. There have been improvements in forward connectivity, construction of bridge on the Brahmaputra river, laying of new railway lines, improvement of air connectivity to all States in the northeast," he said in an informal interaction at Kibuthu on September 10 on the sidelines of an event to rename the military camp after the country's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat.

"Presently the situation along the borders [Eastern Sector] is reasonably calm and firmly under control," Lt. Gen. Kalita said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

CAA petitions to be heard on Oct. 31

CJI asks parties to draw road map, highlight issues; case to go to 3-judge Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court fixed the hearing in 220 petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019 on October 31 and said it will refer the case to a three-judge Bench.

The petitions came up before a Bench of Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit and S. Ravindra Bhat on September 12 after a hiatus of many months. The hearing of the case was interrupted by the pandemic.

Chief Justice Lalit asked the parties, including the Centre, to draw a "road map" highlighting the issues involved in the case, their division into various segments and the formulation of questions of law.

Lawyers said the petitions linking the CAA with the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) ought to be a different segment of its own and heard separately.

A recent protest in Guwahati against the CAA. • PTI

The CAA fast-tracks the citizenship-by-naturalisation process for "illegal migrants" from six religious communities, other than Muslims, who have fled persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Act and its implementation had seen ordinary citizens protest across the country. Police action on the protesters had drawn heavy criticism.

The government had maintained that the amendments made to the Citizenship Act of 1955 was meant to protect and welcome religiously persecuted people fleeing the three neighbouring countries where Muslims form the majority.

Dissenting voices

The top court had earlier issued a formal notice admitting the petitions filed by people from all walks of life and faiths, from parliamentarians to retired High Commissioners and service officers to lawyers, students, activists, professional associations to Opposition parties, cutting across regions and ideology and NGOs.

The petitions have argued that the law welcomes "illegal migrants" into India selectively on the basis of their religion and pointedly excludes Muslims. It has an "unholy nexus" with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise and is against principles of secularism, right to equality and dignity of life enshrined in the Constitution, the petitions said.

The petitions have argued that the law effectuates discrimination on the basis of the intrinsic identity of an individual, that is, his religious identity as a Muslim. While Muslim migrants would have to show their proof of residency in India for at least 11 years, the law allows illegal migrants from the six communities to be naturalised in five years' time.

Blaze at e-bike shop spreads to hotel, 6 die

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Six persons, including a woman, staying in a four-storey hotel in Secunderabad were killed in a fire that started in an electrical bike showroom and spread upstairs late on Monday night.

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand said the injured were rushed to Gandhi Hospital and other private hospitals. Most of the victims died of suffocation as thick smoke caught the guests in Ruby Lodge unawares. Some guests broke the windowpanes and jumped down.

Initial reports suggested that a battery of a vehicle exploded, resulting in the fire spreading to other bikes in the showroom.

Congress an important pillar in Opposition unity: Ramesh

'All parties are watching what Congress is doing'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition unity will be meaningful only if the Congress becomes strong and the elephant has now woken up, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said on Monday.

He said a strong Congress was an important pillar of Opposition unity and its allies should understand that the party would not allow itself to be weakened.

Though he didn't name anyone, his comment comes a day after Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav told *The Hindu* that the Congress should allow regional parties to be in the "driving seat".

The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi when it reached the Kerala capital on Monday. • S. MAHINSHA

Addressing a press conference on Bharat Jodo Yatra at the All India Congress Committee headquarters, Mr. Ramesh said the *yatra* has infused energy and enthusiasm among its workers and would strengthen the party. "I am happy that after the Bharat Jodo Yatra, everybody has seen that the elephant has awakened, the elephant is moving forward, and all parties are seeing what the Congress is doing," he said.

"Opposition unity does not mean weakening the Congress. Our allies should also understand that we will not allow ourselves to be weakened further," he said.

The statement comes in the backdrop of several regional players trying to occupy the pole position in the Opposition space in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

THE HINDU
Text & Context

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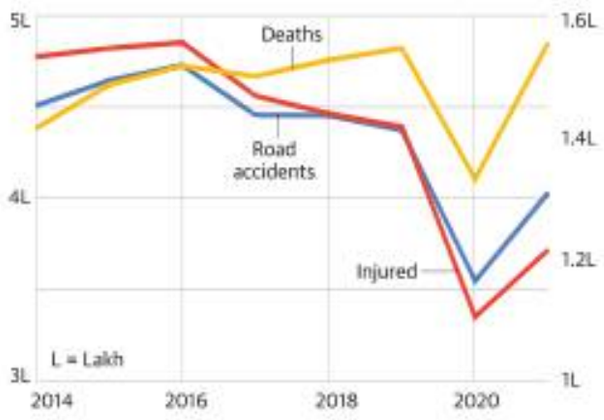
GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Who is the median road accident victim in India?

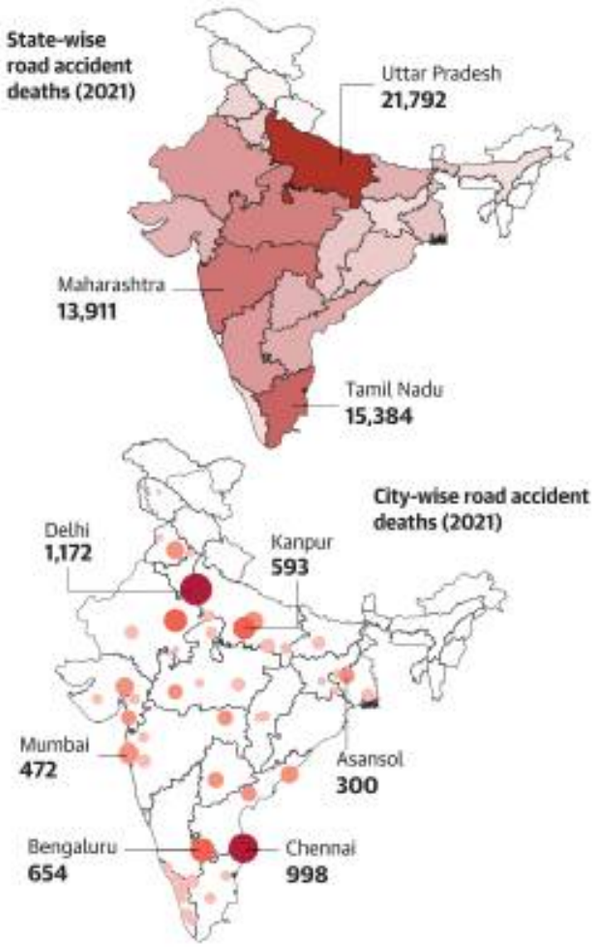
The death of former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry in a car crash this month has brought attention to the rising number of road accident-related fatalities in India. According to the latest Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI) report, in 2021, despite a significant reduction in road accidents from pre-pandemic levels, there were more than 1.5 lakh deaths in India — highest since at least 2014. Uttar Pradesh and Delhi had the highest number of road accident-related deaths among States and cities, respectively. Data show that a median road accident victim in 2021 was a male aged between 18 and 44 who travelled in a two-wheeler, and was speeding or driving carelessly during late evenings. However a few cities and States deviated from this pattern.

By **Rebecca Rose Varghese** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

1 ACCIDENTS AND VICTIMS | The chart shows the number of road accidents (blue), number of injured (red) and number of related deaths (yellow, right-axis) in India. In 2021, the number of deaths surpassed pre-pandemic levels. However, accidents were fewer in number. In 2020, accidents and deaths were much lower than usual due to pandemic-related restrictions

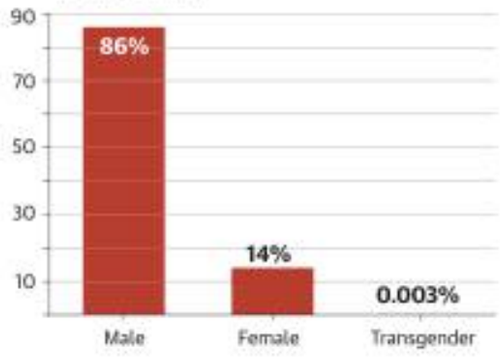


2 DEATH COUNT | The maps show the State-wise and city-wise number of road accident deaths recorded in 2021. Among States, Uttar Pradesh (21,792) recorded the highest number of deaths, followed by Tamil Nadu (15,384). Delhi (1,172) recorded the most number of fatalities barely ahead of Chennai (998), among cities

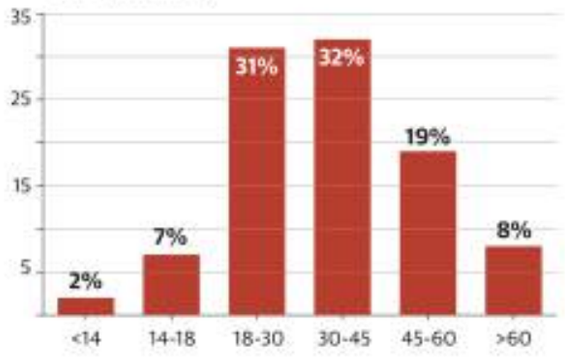


3 MEDIAN VICTIM | In 2021, a median road accident victim in India was a male aged between 18 and 44* who drove a two-wheeler, was speeding or driving carelessly/hastily overtaking on the roads other than the National and State highways, mostly during late evening. Accidents were least in the peak summer month of May

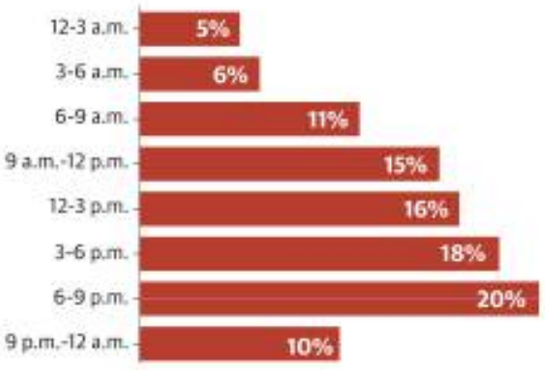
Gender-wise road accident deaths in India (2021, % share)



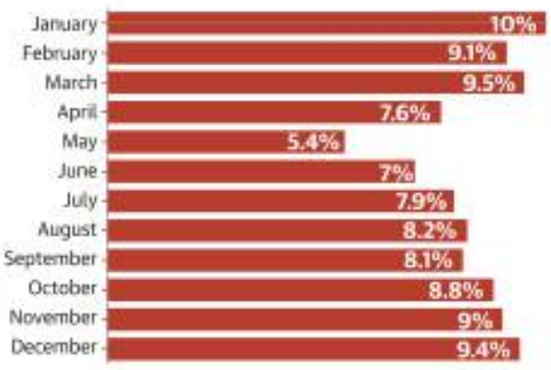
Age-wise accident-related deaths in India (2021, % share)*



Hour-wise road accidents in India (2021, % share)

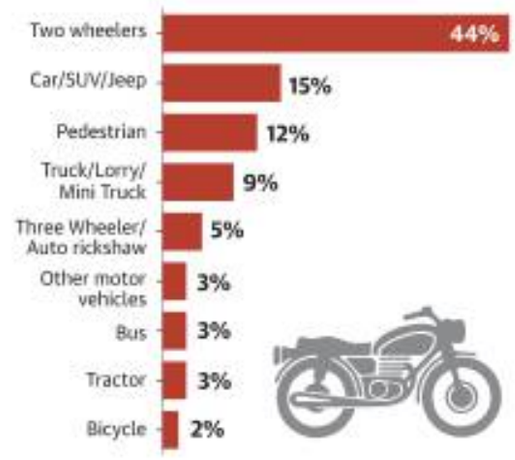


Month-wise road accidents in India (2021, % share)



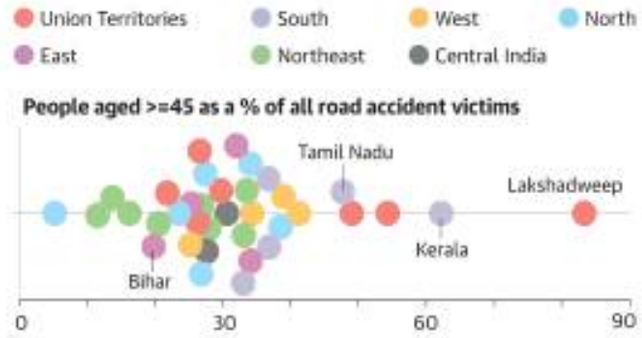
Types of roads on which road accident deaths happen in India (2021, % share)

Mode of transport among road accident deaths in India (2021, % share)

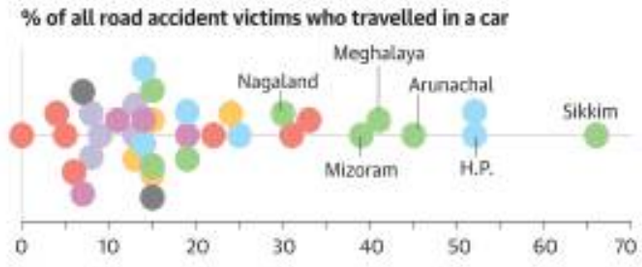


Cause of road accident deaths in India (2021, % share)

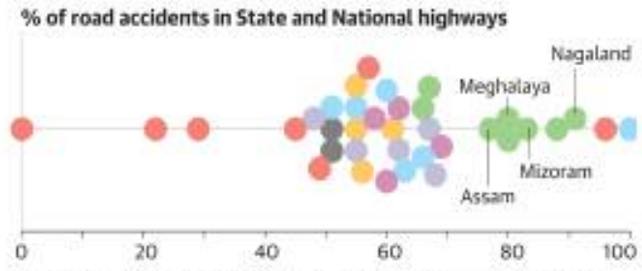
4 DEVIATIONS FROM PATTERNS | While the aggregate figures for India show an overall trend, State-level and city-level data reveal some surprising exceptions



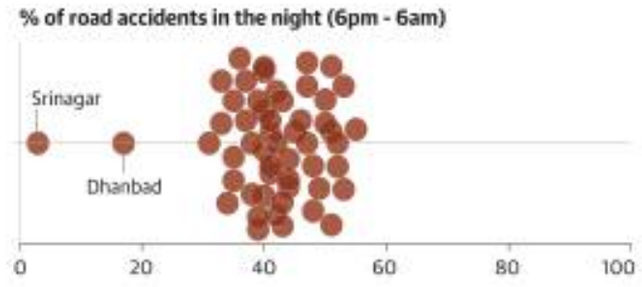
In India, only 33% of road accident victims were aged over 45. However, the southern States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu bucked the national trend with over 62% and 47% of accident victims aged over 45, respectively



In India, a majority (44%) of road accident victims were travelling in a two-wheeler. However parts of Northeast were an exception, with a higher share of road accident victims travelling in "cars, SUV or jeep"



Again the north-eastern States stood out from the rest, with a relatively high share of accidents happening in the national and State highways and not on the other roads



Two cities - Srinagar in J&K U.T. and Dhanbad in Jharkhand stood out from the pack when the accident hours are considered. Only 3% and 17% of accidents in these two cities respectively were in the night hours, a significant deviation from the general trend

* The age-wise split of road accident victims was not provided by the NCRB, but the document has such a breakdown for all accident victims. As road accident victims account for 40% of all accidental deaths in India, the pattern is unlikely to change much.

SOURCE: NATIONAL CRIMES RECORDS BUREAU 2021 REPORT

HC: Civic body's failure to clear drain encroachment caused flood

Court directs BBMP to immediately remove encroachments on storm-water drains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that the failure of the BBMP to perform its statutory duties of removal of encroachments on storm-water drains has given rise to the recent situation of inundation of several parts of the city due to unprecedented floods caused after heavy rains.

Pointing out that the BBMP and the State government have failed to comply with the directions issued way back in June 2019 for surveying of storm-water drains and removal of encroachments of drains, the court directed the government to take quick steps for removal of all the encroachments immediately.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty issued the directions during the hearing of a batch of PIL petitions filed since 2014 on the issues related to maintenance of city's lakes and storm-water drains.

The High Court Bench has directed the BBMP to take steps to ensure prevention of dumping of all kinds of waste and other pollutants into storm-water drains. • BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Bench also directed the BBMP to take steps to ensure prevention of dumping of all kinds of waste and other pollutants into storm-water drains and submit a status report to the court on actions taken for removal of storm-water drain encroachment by next date of hearing on October 12.

Earlier, during the hearing on the petitions on Monday, advocate G.R. Mohan, appearing for one of the petitioners, Geetha Misra filed an application demonstrating the impact of water logging caused during rains.

While pointing out that the court on June 18, 2019 had issued directions for removal of the encroachments of storm-water drains by conducting survey, Mr. Mohan also referred to court's June 2021 order, in which the court had taken note that the government and the BBMP had not complied with the 2019 order on removal of encroachments of storm-water drains.

It was alleged in the application that encroachments of storm-water drains is one of the main causes for flooding of low laying areas due to rains.

BBMP identifies 15 buildings, including IT parks, that encroached upon SWDs

Properties include Bagmane Tech Park, Rainbow Drive Layout, Wipro, Eco Space

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Days before heavy downpour in the city led to flooding, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had identified at least 15 encroachments by various builders and IT parks in Mahadevapura zone.

The document, dated August 17, shows that properties built on various survey numbers in Mahadevapura zone had blocked the water flow on storm-water drains (SWD).

The properties mentioned in the document include Bagmane Tech Park, Rainbow Drive Layout, Wipro, Eco Space, Gopalan in Bellandur, Hoodi and Sonnehalli, Diya School, Adarsha, Columbia Asia Hospital, New Horizon College, Adarsha retreat, Epysion and DiyaShree, Prestige, Salarpuria and Adarsha and Nalapad.

A senior BBMP official confirmed to *The Hindu* that these properties on different survey numbers have encroached upon the SWD. "A notice has been issued to these builders and soon we will conduct an anti-encroachment drive against these properties. The survey was conducted last month and notices were served to these properties," he added.

BBMP has started an anti-encroachment drive to remove illegal structures that have come up on storm-water drains in several areas of Mahadevapura zone of Bengaluru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier this week, N.R. Ramesh, Bengaluru South District president of the BJP, had accused the IT firms and various builders of encroaching upon the SWD.

In a letter to industrialist Mohandas Pai, Mr. Ramesh alleged that Information Technology industries in the city are the reason for the current situation of flooding.

Alleging that major IT companies have constructed their buildings on storm-water drains and their buffer zones, he had said: "The width of the primary drains and secondary drains of the rajakaluves have been completely encroached on or diverted during these constructions of IT companies."

On Monday, BBMP commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "We have given detailed instruction to all eight zones to clear the encroachments on lake beds and SWDs and take action."

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru East tahsildar had also issued notice to 13 residents of the luxury Rainbow Drive gated community in the city, which was flooded after heavy rain recently, for alleged encroachment of a storm-water drain.

The authorities alleged that the residents' properties block major areas of the culvert, making the layout prone to flooding during the rain.

BBMP announces ₹10,000 compensation for 1,064 houses

Residents, however, allege that the rain damage survey was not carried out diligently on the ground

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) has announced ₹10,000 compensation each for the families whose homes were flooded in the recent rain. The civic body has identified 1,064 houses that were flooded in Mahadevapura zone and announced the compensation.

Survey conducted

BBMP officials said: "We have surveyed the flooded area in our zone and found that 1,064 houses have been flooded, and they have also lost a lot of goods and groceries. We will be releasing the compensation fund soon," the official added.

> **The compensation given by the government is very low. What can we do with ₹10,000 when we have lost materials of more than ₹1 lakh. Our furniture, television sets, and fridge have been damaged in the rain and flooding.**
>
> PREMA KUMARI
> A resident of Bellandur

In May this year, the BBMP released compensation to 3,311 households in Bengaluru city that were flooded and suffered damages during the rains that month.

A compensation of ₹25,000 was announced by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds charge of the city.

That was the first time the civic body of Bengaluru paid compensation for flooding of homes due to rains.

Meanwhile, many residents have alleged that the rain damage survey was not carried out diligently on the ground and many households that were flooded and incurred losses were not covered.

Prema Kumari, a resident of Bellandur, said, "The compensation given by the government is very low. What can we do with ₹10,000 when we have lost materials of more than ₹1 lakh. Our furniture, television sets, and fridge have been damaged in the rain and flooding."

Shankar Prasad, another resident of Bellandur, said, "We have lost most of our belongings in this rain, including our two-wheelers and cars, but at least BBMP should give compensation for half of the damage caused as the ₹10,000 relief announced by BBMP will not cover the loss."

Photo and geotag

The BBMP ward engineers were asked to carry out a survey of the rain damages in their wards and submit a report of each household with a photo and geotag.

No discrimination in removal of construction on rajakaluve: CM

'Eviction notices have been served on the violators'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said there was no question of any discrimination in the removal of encroachments on rajakaluve in the city.

Talking to reporters at the Secretariat here on Monday, he said eviction notices had been served on those who had built buildings or houses on rajakaluve. Experts have attributed the recent flooding in the city to illegal constructions on rajakaluve that block the flow of water into drains.

While the government blamed the erstwhile Congress government for allowing the illegal constructions, Congress leaders blamed the BJP for neglect of infrastructure.

Mr. Bommai said the recent floods affected not only IT/BT companies and workers, but also common people. Houses in low-lying areas too faced problems. The work on removal of all encroachments would be completed, he said.

Replying to a question, Mr. Bommai said the government has sought directions from courts in many cases. The courts would be apprised of the situation. Several directions have been issued by courts in connection with flood-related cases in the past. This time, the encroachments would be removed on a big scale, the Chief Minister said.

Man from U.P. dupes social activist of ₹31 lakh

He promised to get the victim V-P post in National Commission for Minorities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Viveknagar police have registered a cheating case against a conman who, posing as a power broker, cheated a city-based social activist promising the vice president post in the National Commission for Minorities and made away with ₹31 lakh.

The victim, Johar Abbas, a resident of Ejipura, was introduced to the accused, identified as Hasnain Baqai, from Unnao, U.P., through a common friend in September 2021.

Baqai claimed to have close proximity with the leaders of the ruling party and ministers, and promised to get him the vice president post in the National Commission for Minorities and demanded ₹60 lakh for the job.

While Abbas was contemplating on giving such a huge sum, Baqai got an appointment letter from the office of the then Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi signed by an under secretary. Kumar Nityananda took ₹30 lakh in cash and ₹1 lakh through online transactions and left. The cheating came to light when Abbas tried to confirm about the appointment and realised that he had been duped.

After repeated attempts, in July this year, Mr. Abas contacted Baqai who started demanding ₹40 lakh more for the post and also threatened him with dire consequences.

Man injured as rooftop collapses on him

Incident occurred place at a tea stall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old medical representative was injured and others escaped narrowly when a part of the rooftop collapsed on them while they were having tea at SLV tea stall on NHS road, V.V. Puram, on Saturday.

The victim, Mukesh, was rescued and taken to KIMS hospital, from where he was shifted to Hosmat hospital, where he is being treated.

Chidananda, a colleague of Mr. Mukesh, said that they were returning from work and stopped for a tea break.

While having tea at the stall, a part of the roof collapsed and Mr. Mukesh got buried under the debris.

The others who escaped narrowly cleared the debris and took him out. He is said to have broken his backbone and has internal bleeding.

Based on the complaint, the police have charged the owners of the building and the tea stall.

Course in bakery technology

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bakery Training Unit, Directorate of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (UAS-B), Hebbal, has invited applications for a 14-week certificate course in bakery technology.

According to a release, candidates with a minimum qualification of a pass/fail in SSLC/10th standard are eligible to apply. The application can be obtained from Bakery Training Unit by paying a fee of ₹10 and the same should be sent to Co-ordinator, Bakery Training Unit, UAS, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024. The last date to submit the filled applications is on or before September 24.

Those interested may also contact the Co-ordinator personally or through phone 080-23513370 during office hours.

A bus for children to learn and play

BBMP starts 'Wonder on Wheels' that will teach out-of-school children in the city

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) started a programme called "Wonder on Wheels'" across the city on Monday by procuring 10 buses from Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath launched the initiative at the BBMP headquarters, which, according to him, will be beneficial to 300-500 out-of-school children in the city.

The project is the initiative of Freethinking Foundation and is being undertaken with the BBMP. This is the continuation of the Montessori School on Wheels programme launched in May.

"Architects have remodelled the bus with a detachable amphitheatre and musical areas, among others. The bus is furnished with detachable seating, shelves and storage to allow for free creative movement. Art, craft, musical instruments, library books and audio-visual systems, and permanent art and craft teachers will be present in the bus," said in a release from the BBMP.

A 'Wonder on Wheels' vehicle that was launched at the BBMP office in Bengaluru on Monday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

- Art, craft, musical instruments, library books and audio-visual systems, and permanent art and craft teachers will be present in the bus.

"The objective of the programme is to provide innovative learning material, trained teachers and different environment to aganwadi children. Through this, the holistic learning ability of children can be enhanced. This programme will be extended across the city," Mr. Giri Nath said.

Each of these buses will accommodate up to 50 children, have two teachers trained in Montessori schooling, a group D worker and study and play materials for children. Children can learn in English, Kannada and Hindi mediums in these buses everyday.

The BBMP will park the bus in gardens and parks to help children learn in the open, in a stress free environment and explore nature, says officials.

Investiture ceremony held

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The investiture ceremony of the students council, clubs and association and the inauguration of Kalajyothi 2022, organised by Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous, was held recently.

Tammy Ben-Haim, Consul General of Israel to South India, Bengaluru, was the chief guest.

Speaking after inaugurating the event, Ms. Tammy pointed out that student leaders must figure out their leadership roles in their homes, community and the government. Talking about the emotional quotient, she said: "Both Israel and India have a good emotional knowledge and gives them a good start as they are adaptable and resilient which paves way for a young future and leadership."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original Sale Deed bearing document numbers: 6283/1997-98, pertaining to property bearing **Sy. No 73, Muthugadahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore** the brief details of which are as follows:
Sale deed dated: 15/12/1997, document number:6283/1997-98, Registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore.
We have filed for missing document complaint in the concerned online portal and have received acknowledgement bearing number: 0288913/2022 dated: 09-08-2022.
The Original Sale deed has been lost. All/any person/s are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale Deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **10 days** from this present.

SUJIT.U, TARAN.V, ADVOCATES
No: G-4, NISH III Apartment,
Ashwath Nagar, Bengaluru-560 094
Contact : 9902029705, 9945878698
Bangalore Date : 12-09-2022

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2022-23-OT-13, 14
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

OT No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
13	Facilities and Test Setup for homing Electric locomotives at Krishnarajapuram Shed and Provision of Rail Museum with landscaping, approach road etc., near Nandi Railway Station - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 46,78,961/-
14	Replacement of over aged interlocking of S&T gears at Devangonthi and Tyakal Stations with Electronic Interlocking - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 25,04,899/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 29-09-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Bengaluru
PUB/348/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO. S/19/2022-23 Dated. 09-09-2022. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works. **SN.1. Tender No.**30/22/1192A/OT/58/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Wheel Set Earthing Equipment as per Drg. No. EDTS101, REV-C, AM-1. **Closing/Opening date: 26-09-2022.** For details please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in**
PCMM, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. RESEC-E-296-BAW-HAS-018 Dated : 05-09-2022 (Re-Tender)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Proposed construction of 02 Nos. control building, retaining wall, earth work, water supply arrangement and other ancillary works etc., at Siddapura, Shravanabelagola stations of Gr-296 between Chikbanavar - Hassan Section of Bengaluru Division, SWR of Railway Electrification work. Completion period of work is six months.	Rs. 2,72,71,381/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 29-09-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Railway Electrification
Bengaluru
PUB/352/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/70/2022 Dated : 06-09-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Electrical arrangements for provision of two additional running / stabling lines in the existing yard and for new station building, FOB, Platform, PF shelter and S&T Goomty including lighting arrangements at Belagola Railway Station in Mysuru - Hassan Section. **(Tender Ref No. ECN-16-2022-RT1)**	Rs. 51,61,165/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 21-09-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction)
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/343/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Notification No.MYS/COMML/33/2022 Dated : 06-09-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites application for engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents at **Bantwala** between Sakaleshpur and Bantwala Section, **Kardi** between Tumakuru & Arsikere Section, **Masarahalli** between Biruru & Talaguppa Section & **Tolahunse** between Chickjajur and Haveri Section over Mysuru division on Commission basis for a period of 3 years.
Last date for submission of applications:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13-10-2022
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
Mysuru
PUB/346/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/71/2022 Dated : 07-09-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Arsikere - Tumakuru Section - left over PFs, PFs shelters, FOBs, Station Building SSE/P.Way office and other passenger amenities works etc. **(Tender Ref. No: ASK-TK-42R)**	Rs. 38,92,99,635/-
2	Gadag - Hotgi Doubling Project : Linking of track from Km 94/600 to 114/600 between Bagalkot (Excluding Bagalkot yard) to including Jadramekunti yard. **(Tender Ref. No: HIGA-89)**	Rs. 10,25,76,295/-
3	Gadag - Hotgi Doubling Project : Linking and laying of track work at Vijayapura Yard. **(Tender Ref. No: HIGA-87)**	Rs. 3,96,51,419/-
4	Linken Hofman Bush (LHB) coach periodical overhauling facility : Architectural Elevation and face lifting works of building at workshop Hubballi. **(Tender Ref. No: UBL-POH-03)**	Rs. 1,54,78,853/-
5	Maintenance works of old GM building i.e., covering construction unit of CE-I, II, III offices, medical department, audit department and RRC department including Dy. CE-V office with garden, circulating area and parking area at Hubballi. **(Tender Ref. No: KUD-HG-GMBLD-04)**	Rs. 64,57,412/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 28-09-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Materials Manager / Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/350/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

THE HINDU
Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS

World champ Alcaraz

1 Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz's current ranking, rising to the top of the tennis world on Sunday, claiming his first Grand Slam title with a 6-4 2-6 7-6(1) 6-3 win over Norway's Casper Ruud in the U.S. Open final. He is the youngest world number one (19) since the ATP rankings began in 1973, breaking the mark set by Lleyton Hewitt, who was 20 when he became number one in 2001. French Open finalist Ruud, who was attempting to be the first Norwegian to capture the top spot, will rise to second in the world from number seven. REUTERS

New Air India planes

30 The number of new aircraft to be progressively inducted by Air India from December this year, as the Tata-owned airline looks to boost its domestic and international services. The airline has signed leases and letters of intent for inducting five wide-body Boeing and 25 Airbus narrow-body planes over the next 15 months. Air India's wide-body fleet stands at 43 aircraft, of which 33 are operational. The rest will return to service by early 2023. Its narrow-body fleet stands at 70 aircraft. Out of them, 54 are in service. PTI

Cattle deaths

67,000 The number of cattle to die since the outbreak of the lumpy skin disease (LSD) in July, prompting a massive effort to vaccinate cattle in over eight States which have the most number of cases, according to the Union government. The disease has spread mainly in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. There are some stray cases in Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. PTI

Food insecurity

6.3 In million, the number of people in crisis-hit Sri Lanka facing moderate to severe food insecurity, according to a joint report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), which also warned that their situation would worsen if adequate life-saving assistance and livelihood support is not provided. Two consecutive seasons of poor harvests led to a nearly 50% drop in production coupled with reduced imports of food grains due to foreign exchange constraints. PTI

Low industrial growth

2 In percentage, the deceleration in India's industrial production growth in July, a four-month low, due to a poor performance by the manufacturing, power and mining sectors, according to official data. The previous low in industrial output growth was recorded at 2.2 % in March this year. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 6.7% in April, 19.6% in May and 12.7% in June. Factory output, measured in terms of IIP, had expanded 11.5% in July 2021. The manufacturing sector expanded 3.2% in July compared to 10.5% recorded in the year-ago period. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

The Moti Masjid in Bhopal. • A. M. FARUQUI

BIBLIOGRAPHY

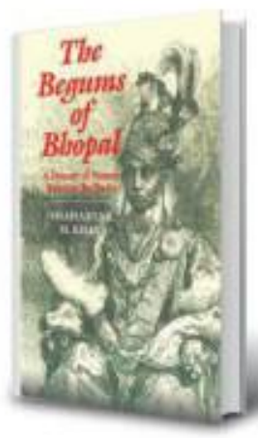
Of a female knight and the Begums of Bhopal

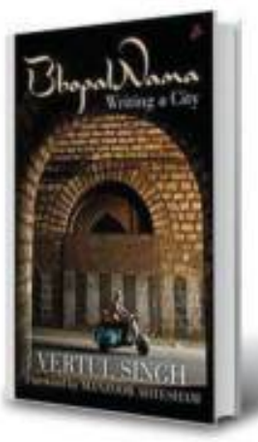
Tracing the history of a city where four Muslim women ruled for over 107 years

ZIYA US SALAM

As the capital of one of the largest States, Bhopal has flown under the radar. It has little of the financial muscle associated with Mumbai, even less historicity to rival that of Kolkata. It has neither the earthiness of Patna nor the niceties of Lucknow. Yet, Bhopal in its own understated way has enough accomplishments to fill up a mantelpiece. Among all the States, cities and towns of imperial and modern India, Bhopal has done more for women empowerment than probably all States put together. True, back in the 13th century Delhi had a woman ruler, Raziya Sultan, who ruled from 1236 to 1240, but little else. Bhopal has been ruled by four Muslim women for 107 years. The Begums of Bhopal did not shy away from calling themselves the Nawabs of Bhopal.

Shaharyar Khan, Shobhan Lambert-Hurley and Vertul Singh have authored or edited books on the city, which on the one hand capture its history, and on the other reveal the streak of women dominance for more than a hundred years. Khan's *The Begums of Bhopal* is the most detailed work. Like an artist fills his canvas with colour, Khan fills his pages with details of the city, its illustrious history, and its formidable Begums, now reduced to a faint memory. Khan's Bhopal was founded by Dost Mohammed Khan. As the author reminds us, "In 1707, before Dost Mohammed Khan arrived in Malwa, central India, Bhopal was a small village on the banks of the River Banganga. An old fort, lying in ruins, was a testimony to Bhopal having known more prosperous times in the distant past."





Tales of Bhojpal

The earliest reference to Bhopal though dates back to 640 AD when it was ruled by the Parmar dynasty. Its name is derived from that of Raja Bhoj who, as legend has it, contracted leprosy and was advised to build a lake with water from 365 rivers and bathe in it. Raja Bhoj did as advised. The lake was called Bhoj Tal (or Bhoj's lake). Over time, it got corrupted to Bhojpal, then Bhopal. The State was formed in 1715. It was the second largest Muslim princely state in pre-Independence India, wherein 90% of the population was Hindu. Interestingly, the Begum of Bhopal, Nawab Sikandar Begum, as Lambert-Hurley writes in the introduction to *A Princess's Pilgrimage*, supported the British during the Revolt of 1857.

After the Revolt had been suppressed, this loyalty was rewarded in the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 in which Sikandar was granted the title of Nawab to rule over Bhopal in her own right as well as given a 19-gun salute, the return of territory lost to a neighbouring prince and the Grand Cross of the Star of India. "This honour made her, at the time, the only female knight in the British Empire besides Queen Victoria, a position that underlines her unique status, as well as her close relationship with the British," writes Lambert-Hurley.

The story of Bhopal though began not with Sikandar Begum's rise or the reign of her mother Qudsia Begum or her own daughter Shah Jahan Begum, but with an intrepid young man called Dost Mohammed Khan. As Shaharyar Khan writes, "The story of Bhopal begins with Sardar Dost Mohammad Khan, founder of the state and of the Bhopal dynasty. Born in 1672, Dost was a strapping, handsome, brash and ambitious young man. Like all Pathan noblemen, he had been brought up in the warrior tradition of his clan...Dost's only ambition was to enlist in Aurangzeb's army and make his future in the service of the Mughal Empire. Around 1697, Dost was in his mid-20s and a brash, dare-devil, buccaneer of a character. He was restless and ready to seek his fortune by crossing the Khyber Pass into India." Head to India he did, but it was far from an easy ride.

As he traversed through Jalalabad, Karnal and Delhi, on more than one occasion, he almost kissed death, but he proved a survivor, qualities which came in handy when he got to play a pivotal role in Bhopal.

Though he arrived in Bhopal practically a brigand, he worked his way up, working with a number of local kingdoms and fiefdoms – Rani Kamlapati is said to have sought his protection after the death of her husband Nizam Shah and even tied a rakhi on his hand.

He built the famous Fatehgarh Fort in 1716, including the famous Dhai Seedi ki Masjid, as Vertul Singh writes in *BhopalNama: Writing a City*. Incidentally, Fatehgarh was probably named after Fateh Bibi, a Rajput princess he married. Fateh was no ordinary woman; she paid ransom for her husband's release when he was held captive by his own troops in Gujarat, Singh writes.

Khans to Begums

How did Bhopal transition from the Khans to Begums? After Khan's death, Bhopal was attacked by many mercenaries when Mamola Bai, said by some to be the first Begum, took the help of British General Goddard to repel such forces. Then came Qudsia Begum whose perseverance and wisdom saved the "state from being gobbled up by the Scindias and the Bhonsles", as Singh states. Her daughter Sikandar took statecraft to another level. Sikandar's daughter Shah Jahan Begum added fine touches of poetry, art, music to turn Bhopal into a throbbing centre of the arts. Yet, the most maternal approach towards the subjects was displayed by the fourth Nawab, Sultan Jahan, known for administrative reforms, including several measures for the welfare of her subjects. So much so that she came to be addressed as Sarkar Amma.

This succession of matrilineal rulers gave Bhopal a unique identity. They did what a man could never have dreamt of. For instance, Sultan Shah Jahan Begum initiated the building of a hospital exclusively for women, with women doctors, nurses and other staff. The facility came to be known as Sultania Zenana Hospital. Likewise Sikandar Begum started the practice of schools for girls, inviting scholars from Yemen, Turkey and Arabia. Incidentally, she penned her own experience of Hajj to Mecca and Medina in 'A Pilgrimage to Mecca' which now forms part of Lambert-Hurley's *A Princess's Pilgrimage*. Sikandar Begum's was no ordinary trip as Hajj those days was a life-challenging exercise with possibilities of being robbed, injured or killed by marauders along the way. After Sikandar, Sultan Jahan concentrated on girls' education. As Singh writes, "Sultan Jahan's contribution to women's education is in no way lesser than that of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan." Incidentally, she was the only woman chancellor of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College which was to become the Aligarh Muslim University. All the Begums worked well and lived long. Once, all the four queens of Bhopal were alive at the same time with Qudsia living to breathe alongside three of her successors. That's an interesting footnote in the history of a city where male heirs have been few and far between. Their absence was seldom felt.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, how do you use "gainsay?"

"I would advise you not to use it. It is a literary word. It has an archaic flavour about it. 'To gainsay' means 'to contradict, deny'.

There is no gainsaying his integrity.
There is no gainsaying his intelligence.
He will not gainsay his mother."

"What is the difference between 'look for' and 'look after', sir?"

"'To look for' means 'to search for'.

I am looking for my glasses.
She is looking for her wallet.
He is still looking for a job.

'To look after' means 'to take care of'.

Who will look after the children during your absence?
He is old enough to look after himself.
Please look after yourself.
He looks after himself very well, but he doesn't look after his family."

"What is the meaning of 'He is boning up on English', sir?"

"'To bone up on' means 'to study hard and hurriedly as in a preparation for an examination'. You bone up on a subject.

He is busy boning up on Indian History for the Civil Service examination.

This is a colloquial expression."

"What is the difference between 'instil' and 'imbibe', sir?"

"'To instil' means 'to cause to enter drop by drop'.

Instil a few drops of water into the mixture.

Figuratively, it means 'to impart or introduce gradually'.

You must instil in children a reverence for life.
We must instil the teachings of Gandhiji in our people.

'Imbibe' literally means 'to consume by drinking'. This is a formal word.

He imbibes vast quantities of tea.

'Imbibe' also means 'to absorb, assimilate'.

He imbibed these ideas from books.
He has imbibed his father's bad habits.

When you instil something, you impart it. When you imbibe something, you absorb it.

Well, let's stop here. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away aged 96, after reigning for 70 years

1 What was the christened name of the queen and what official surname did she take in 1960?

2 Though she was born on April 21, 1926, her official birthday was changed to June primarily due to what reason and was made to coincide with which pageant?

3 She wasn't born an heir apparent to the throne but became so in 1936. What was her place in the line of succession at the time of her birth?

4 It was the queen's younger sister who was responsible for her family nickname, a name that U.K's Prince Harry and Meghan gave to their second daughter. What was she lovingly called?

5 The queen was the only living head of State who officially served in World War II. To which 'unit' was she attached as an 18-year-old and what was she trained as?

6 She married her third cousin Prince Philip in November 1947 and the royal couple had four children, including a daughter. Name them in order of birth.

7 Which of these did Elizabeth actually own herself: Windsor Castle, Balmoral Castle, or Kensington Palace?

8 Many actresses have enacted the role on-screen but who won an Oscar for her portrayal of the queen?

9 Though she acceded to the throne on February 6, 1952, her coronation actually took place in 1953. On what date?

10 As queen, she was served by 15 U.K. Prime Ministers. Who were the first and last?

◄ The queen was fond of dogs and owned more than 30 of a particular breed during her lifetime. Name this breed of dog that was a constant presence around her. • AP

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 1992, this military officer organised an unsuccessful coup against incumbent president Carlos Andres Perez. **Ans: Hugo Chavez, Venezuela**
2. Mikhail Gorbachev was sought to be deposed by a group of officials within the Party in a coup that lasted three days in 1991. This person served as the acting President of the USSR during these days. **Ans: Gennady Yanayev**
3. The leading opposition party in the the main legislature of Bangladesh was created by this person. **Ans: Hussain Muhammad Ershad, Jatiyo Party**
4. In 1953, the U.S. and the U.K. organised a coup against this democratically elected prime minister. **Ans: Mohammad Mossadegh, Iran**
5. This person's second name has now become a term for any traitor who collaborates with an enemy force. **Ans: Vidkun Quisling of Norway**
Visual: Name this Afghan politician who became the first president of the country between 1973 and 1978. **Ans: Mohammed Daoud Khan**

Early Birds: M. Thaha Ibrahim Buhari| K. N. Viswanathan| Naveen Varshney| Ranjan Anilkumar

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Result : JEE (Advanced) 2022

ALLEN MAINTAINS THE LEADERSHIP

10 IN TOP 30 ALL INDIA RANKS
FROM CLASSROOM COURSE

34 IN TOP 100 ALL INDIA RANKS

Students Qualified **5571**

CCP : 3910
DLP : 1661

66 IN TOP 200 AIR
160 IN TOP 500 AIR

AIR 32 Jaladhi Joshi, Distance
AIR 35 Sanskar Shaurya, Classroom
AIR 48 Harsh Jakhar, Classroom
AIR 49 Ekansh Ravi Shankar, Distance
AIR 51 Suryansh Srijan, Classroom
AIR 54 Soumitra Darshan Nayak, Classroom
AIR 56 Nihar Hingraja, Distance
AIR 58 Kanishk Sharma, Classroom
AIR 65 Shivam Sawarn, Classroom
AIR 67 Poojan Chetan Shah, Classroom
AIR 68 Kartik Gulia, Classroom
AIR 69 Soumil Bansal, Classroom
AIR 71 Abhinav R. Shripad, Classroom
AIR 75 Abhishek A. Kumar, Classroom
AIR 80 Navnit Kumar Thakur, Classroom
AIR 83 Nisarg R Pandya, Classroom
AIR 84 Rakholiya K. Amrutbhai, Classroom
AIR 85 Anuj A. Chandak, Classroom
AIR 91 Ananya Rao, Distance
AIR 92 Somya Bansal, Classroom
AIR 93 Siddhartha Singh, Distance
AIR 94 Anand Sasikumar, Classroom
AIR 97 Tarang R. Shah, Classroom
AIR 100 Soham Sachin Dahane, Classroom

Result : ALLEN BENGALURU

AIR 137 Aarav Giri, Classroom
AIR 378 Rajeev Rangarajan B, Classroom
AIR 480 Hithysh L Kanth, Classroom
AIR 491 Nikhil Girish Zawar, Classroom
AIR 646 Viral Chitlangia, Classroom
AIR 669 Aditya Verma Reddy K, Classroom
AIR 692 Raunak Mukherjee, Classroom
AIR 738 Tushya Khandelwal, Classroom
AIR 750 Venkat A, Classroom
AIR 753 Sahil Kumar Verma, Classroom
AIR 756 Bhuvan Kumaar A, Classroom
AIR 813 Nikhil Deepak, Classroom

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Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, SEP. 13		
Sun	RISE 06:09	SET 18:22
Moon	RISE 20:40	SET 08:34
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 14		
Sun	RISE 06:09	SET 18:21
Moon	RISE 21:21	SET 09:26
THURSDAY, SEP. 15		
Sun	RISE 06:09	SET 18:21
Moon	RISE 22:04	SET 10:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain or thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

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1,433 transformers on footpaths yet to be relocated: Bescom

4,351 have been either shifted or replaced with spun pole structure, court told

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Bescom) on Monday told the High Court of Karnataka that so far 4,351 out of a total of 5,784 transformers on footpaths in Bengaluru city have been either shifted to different locations or replaced with spun pole structure.

A submission in this regard has been made before a division bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty during the hearing of a PIL petition, which had complained about danger posed to the public due to installation of transformers on footpaths.

The petition was filed by G.B. Athri, a retired Wing Commander of the Air Force.

By Sept. 2023

Meanwhile, the Bescom also told the bench that the remaining 1,433 transformers would be relocated or replaced with spun pole structure by September 2023 as the work order for this purpose has already been issued.

The transformers on the footpaths were identified by a coordination committee comprising officials of the Bescom and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike on the direction issued by the court two years ago.

A file photo of a transformer on a footpath in Bengaluru.

Lokayukta officials trap Joint Commissioner of BBMP

His PA was caught red-handed with ₹4 lakh taken as bribe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Days after getting back its power to probe corruption cases, the Lokayukta sleuths on Monday cracked the whip and raided the office of the Joint Commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and allegedly trapped his PA red-handed with cash amounting to ₹4 lakh.

Based on a complaint from S.M. Manjunath that S.M. Srinivas, Joint Commissioner of BBMP, west zone, was demanding bribe for an official favour of khata transfer, a team of officials led by Ashok K.V., Superintendent of Police, and Deputy Superintendent of Police Antony Raj laid the trap and caught Umesh, a First Division Assistant, as soon as he received the cash on behalf of his boss.

- The accused had demanded ₹12 lakh for official work of amalgamation of khata and were caught while accepting an advance amount.

The Lokayukta officials questioned the duo for over an hour before they were taken into custody. According to an official release, the accused had demanded ₹12 lakh for official work of amalgamation of khata and were caught while accepting an advance amount of ₹4 lakh at their office in Malleswaram.

Two persons found murdered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death allegedly by a colleague over a trivial row at Jalahalli cross in Peenya police station limits on Sunday night.

Fight over water

The deceased, identified as Siddique, had asked for water to drink from his colleague, identified as Ajay, using a slang. Enraged, Ajay stabbed him and escaped.

The severely wounded Siddique was taken to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed later. The Peenya police have registered a case and arrested the accused.

Beggar killed

In another incident, a 50-year-old beggar was bludgeoned to death on Pipeline Road in Yeshwanthpur on Sunday night. The police found the beggar in a pool of blood.

The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained, a police officer said . The police are trying to track down the assailant.

Meeting on medical course fee hike inconclusive

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

In the absence of Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, the third round of meeting on medical courses fee increase and medical seat sharing was inconclusive on Monday.

The meeting was convened by the Principal Secretary of the Department of Medical Education to discuss the issue with private medical and dental college managements.

In that meeting, the representatives of the private medical and dental colleges demanded a large fee hike for 2022-23 academic year, sources said. The Principal Secretary assured the college managements that they would take a "proper decision" on the medical courses fee hike after discussing with the Chief Minister and the Minister of Medical Education, they said.

Postponed

The second round meeting was postponed as the private college managements did not turn up.

37.08% students pass II PU supplementary examination

This year too, girls outshine boys in pass percentage

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A total of 37.08% students passed the II PU supplementary exam, the results of which were announced by the Department of Pre-University Education on Monday.

Among the 1,75,905 attendees of the examination, 65,233 students passed. A total of 1,85,415 had registered for the examination.

Combination wise, 24,530 (34.66%) students from the Arts stream, 20,124 (34.66%) from Commerce, and 20,579 (43.76%) from the Science stream passed.

This year too, the pass percentage of girls was higher than boys. Among the 70,958 girl students who appeared for the examination, 28,596 (40.30%) passed. Among the 1,04,947 boys, 36,637 (34.91%) passed. Medium wise, the pass percentage of English medium (39.35%) student was higher than in Kannada medium (34.89%).

The department held the II PU supplementary examination from August 12 to 25' across the State in 307 centres. The evaluation was held in 10 camps in Bengaluru from September 1 to 8 and 6,927 valuators participated. The results have been published on the website www.karresults.nic.in.

There is a provision for issuing scan copy of answer scripts for revaluation and re-totalling and students can apply online. The last date of applying for the scanned copy is September 15. The candidates should download the scanned copy of the answer scripts only from the department's official website www.pue.karnataka.gov.in from September 21 to 24. Only those who have applied for scan copy can apply for revaluation and re-totalling from September 21 to 25.

In the academic year of 2021-22, on account of the pandemic, the government had cancelled the II PU examination and promoted all the students on the basis of their class X, I PU marks, internal assessment and 5% of grace marks. Then, the DPUE conducted supplementary examination for freshers who rejected this result and repeaters only.

A total of 1,85,415 had registered for the examination. •FILE PHOTO

Up in arms

Ex-servicemen staging a protest seeking sanction of the Land Reforms Act 1969, establishment of an ex-serviceman development board, and a 'Sainik Bhavan' in each district, at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. •PTI

Recruitment to 2,500 teacher posts

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

B.C .Nagesh, Minister of School Education and Literacy, has announced that 2,500 teachers will be recruited to meet the shortage of teachers in various Government High Schools across the State.

He made the announcement on his Twitter account that the government will recruit 2,200 associate teachers, 200 physical education teachers, and 100 special teachers.

In a first, BBMP to distribute 'smart cane' for visually challenged

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

For the first time, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will distribute 'Smart Cane', a handle-like device that can be attached to the white cane normally used by the visually challenged under a welfare scheme.

The welfare department of the civic body will provide smart cane to 943 visually impaired beneficiaries in the city.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BBMP official said, "This is the first time such an initiative has been taken up by the welfare department to provide a smart cane to visually impaired persons in the city free of cost. This unique scheme will help blind people who are from poor backgrounds who cannot afford such smart canes."

According to officials, the smart cane will be foldable and is capable of detecting obstacles in front. "The detection range of the sensor is up to 3 metres and users have the option to reduce the detection range with help of a switch. Users also can adjust the angle sensor according to the height of the user," officials explained.

The smart canes will be provided to beneficiaries who have registered for this scheme at the welfare department. The officials said that the smart cane is capable of conveying information about the obstacle distance with at least three different patterns of vibrations that vary with distance. "The smart cane is built in a rechargeable battery with 8 hours of use on a single charge. The sensor is detachable and it can be removed from the cane. The manufacturer of the product will give a 36 months warranty," the official added.

Schemes to restart

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, most welfare schemes were on hold and the funds were all diverted for COVID-19 management. Now, the BBMP is clearing such welfare schemes by approving files, officials informed.

"No welfare scheme has been implemented since 2020. The schemes were all put on the backburner on account of the pandemic. Available funds were all diverted for COVID-19 management," BBMP's senior officials said.

Barring a few schemes, such as reimbursement of school fees of children of pourakarmikas and 'Onti Maney', others such as wheelchairs for the disabled, distribution of sewing machines, laptops and tabs, and self-help programmes for women and transgender persons have not been implemented. The officials added that such welfare schemes will be implemented soon.

Apart from the smart cane, the BBMP will also provide laptops to blind people under welfare schemes.

Technical specifications

- Foldable cane
- Capable of detecting obstacles in front
- Detection range of the sensor is up to 3 metres
  Users have the option to reduce the detection range with the help of a switch
- Users also can adjust the angle sensor according to their height
- Capable of conveying information about the distance of the obstacle with at least three different patterns of vibrations
- Built-in rechargeable battery with 8 hours of use on a single charge
- Sensor is detachable and can be removed from the cane

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www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (September 13, Tuesday), the following explainers are available:

- **Bibliography**
  Of a female knight and the Begums of Bhopal
  bit.ly/bibliobhopal

Online exclusives

- **Explained**
  What is windfall tax and why are countries imposing it on the energy sector right now?
  bit.ly/windfalltax
- **In Focus podcast**
  What does the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 mean for ordinary consumers and farmers
  bit.ly/podelectricitybill
- **Watch |** Cambodian children learn to grow and cook their own food
  bit.ly/vidcambodia
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIK** Dawood Salima Salamath, D O B 01-06-1970, R/o #29, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Opp. to Shiva Shakthi Colony, Vibhuthipura, Bangaluru-560037 have changed my name to Mohammedgany Monnapillai Salima Salamath vide affidavit dated 12-09-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, **NAMARATA** daughter of Vinod Kumar Mishra, resident of SMQ 615/2 7th Camp Air Force Station Jalahalli East, Bengaluru (KTK) have changed my Name from NAMARATA to NAMRATA MISHRA vide Affidavit dated 10-09-2022 before notary GR Ravichandra Reddy Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

The President,Consumer Protection Forum district Sultanpur U.P.Jitendra Tripathi V/S Ashish Rajpal etc. Complaint no.37/18. under section 12 of Consumer Protection Act.To appear on 11/11/2022. In above litigation you, opposition members. 01.Ashish Rajpal, founder Xceed Digital Education Pvt. Ltd. Xceed House, 14 Sankey Road, Sadashiv Nagar Bengaluru 560080 and 02. Mohit Bharadwaj, Education Manager U. P. with same above address, are being notified by the Publication Medium to be present in above mentioned court on the given date to keep your part of answer. Failing which the court will proceed against you single sidedly.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYOHALL, BANGALORE
(CCH-29)
O.S. No. 25480/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited
Having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakle Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007 and its branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Champa BM ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
Champa BM
D/W/o: Baraguru Hanumegowda Murthy,
Aged about 36 years,
R/a: 3930, 12th Main Road, Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560078
...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 8,82,385.86/-** (as on 07/01/2020) along with interest at 12.50% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 28th Additional City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-29] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the **03/11/2022 at 11:00 A.M.** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the **08th day of September 2022.**
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANUSUYA** is legally wedded spouse of No.10490143K, Rank: HAV, Name: Channappa Kali, presently residing at Hagadal (Vill), Ramavadagi (PO), Hungund (Tehsil) Bagalkot (Dist), Karnataka-587118 have declared to change my name from Anusuya to Anasuya vide affidavit dt: 02.09.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'lore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYOHALL, BANGALORE
(CCH-29)
O.S. No. 26570/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited
Having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007 and its branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Glory M ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
Glory M,
D/o. Mark,
Aged about 26 years,
R/a. 148, Telecom Layout, 5th Block, HBR Layout, Bangalore- 560043
...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 2,88,956.16/-** (as on 28/10/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 28th Additional City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-29] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the **03/11/2022 at 11:00 A.M.** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this **08th day of September 2022.**
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VIDYA** DHAR MISHRA, dependents of Vinod Kumar Mishra R/o. SMQ 615/27th Camp Air Force Station Jlahalli East, Bengaluru(KTK) have changed by Name from VIDYA DHAR MISHRA to VIDYADHAR MISHRA vide Affidavit dated 12-09-2022 before notary GR Ravichandra Reddy Bengaluru

I, **NUSRATH** Banu No.52, 1st Main, 5th Cross, LBS Nagar, HAL Post, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name from Nusrath Banu to Nusarath Banu vide affidavit dated 12-09-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S No.25700/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ..Plaintiff
And
B Venu ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
B Venu,
S/o. Mr. Bellu, Aged about 35 years, R/a. No. 55, 3rd Floor, 2nd Cross, 8th Block, Opp. Koramangala Police Station Road, Bangalore-560095
...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.4,17,147.57/- as on 07/02/2020 along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 28th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-29] in person or by a pleader duly, instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings 03.11.2022 at 11 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 08 day of September, 2022
By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate For Plaintiff
Shiva & Co, Advocates
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore - 560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (74th ACCJ)
(CCH-75)
O.S. No.25298/2019
Between
ICICI Bank Limited having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
John David J ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
John David J.
Aged about 31 years, S/o, John David John Prabhakar, R/a. No.73/66-3, Budugappa Compound, Cholanayakanahalli, Hebbal, RT Nagar PO, Near Cholanayakanahalli Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560 032
...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 3,77,171.84/- as on 04/10/2018 along with interest at 18% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court of City Civil & Sessions Judge Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-75] in person or by a pleader duly, instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings 20.10.2022 at 11 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 25 day of August, 2022.
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate For Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1 Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052.

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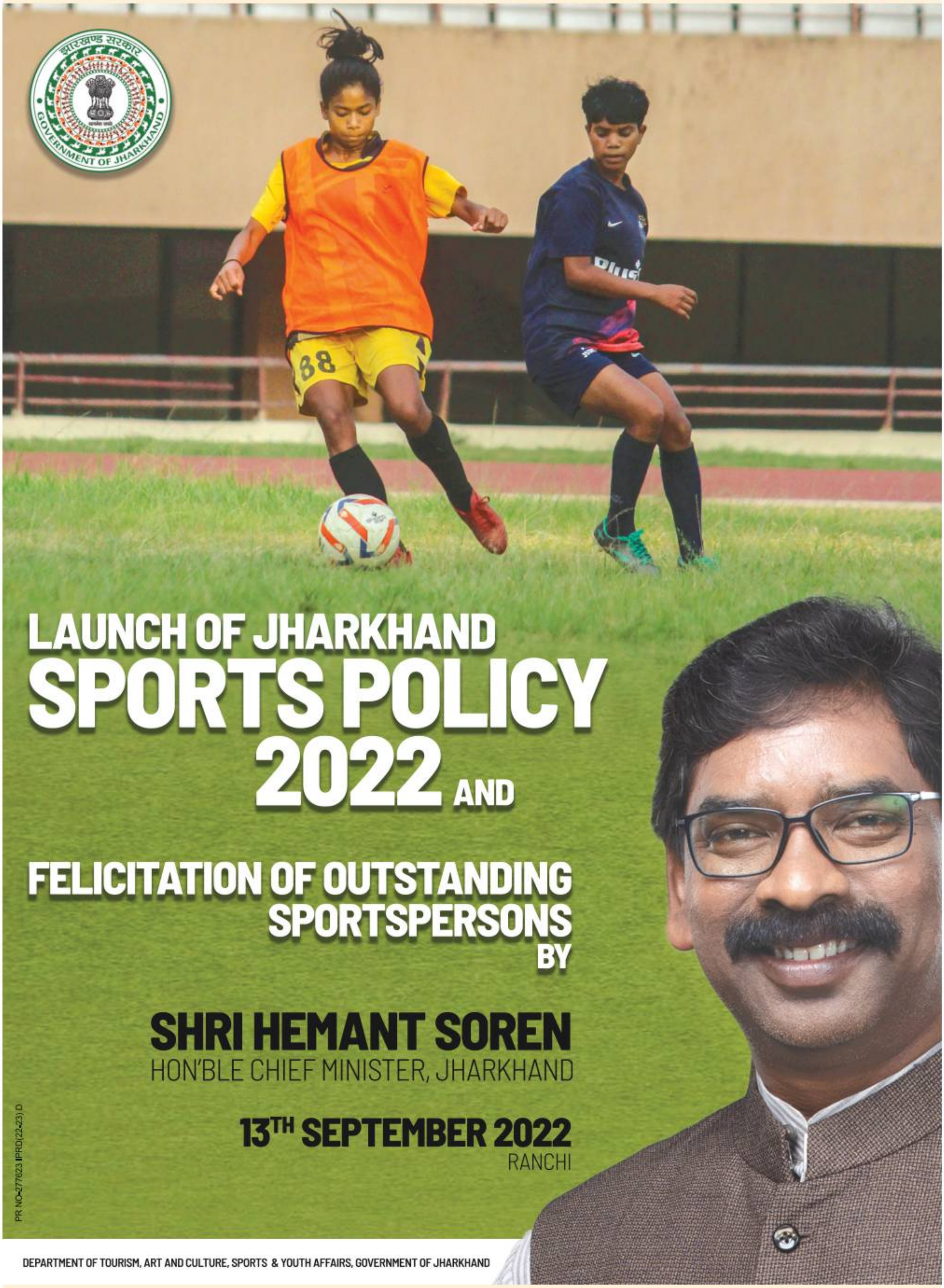
झारखण्ड सरकार
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2022 AND
FELICITATION OF OUTSTANDING
SPORTSPERSONS
BY
SHRI HEMANT SOREN
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, JHARKHAND
13TH SEPTEMBER 2022
RANCHI
PR NO-277623 IPRD(22-23) D
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ART AND CULTURE, SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

HC notice to State, AICTE on plea challenging policy of COMED-K

Petitioner says he was compelled to approach court on behalf of 'helpless' students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and other authorities on a PIL petition, which questioned the legality of the counselling and fee refund policy of the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMED-K) for admitting students to engineering courses under the management quota seat.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on the petition filed by N.P. Amrutesh, a city-based advocate.

The petitioner clarified that he was compelled to approach the court on behalf of the 'helpless' students and their parents, who were unable to raise their voice or fight the legal battle against the mighty managements of the private institutions.

It was contended in the petition that COMED-K's counselling policy deprives students from participating in more than one round of counselling to choose a seat based on their ranking. Once a student surrenders an allotted seat, even in the first round, the student cannot participate in the next round of counselling despite having higher rank, the petition stated while terming the policy as 'arbitrary and illegal'.

The petitioner pointed out that the refund of fee policy states: "if a candidate whose name is in the final list, fails to join/report and continue the study in the allotted college, he/she will forfeit the entire tuition fee including other fees paid at COMED-K level since the candidate has deprived an opportunity of getting allotted a seat to next best/merited candidate thereby blocking a seat and the candidate is also liable to pay a penalty of five times of the fee."

Policy contrary

The policy of refund, the petitioner contended, was contrary to the guidelines issued by the AICTE and the University Grants Commission (UGC) as the institutes are prohibited from the forfeiture of entire fee paid at the time of admission besides prohibiting retention of original marks cards of the qualifying exams of the candidates. Demanding five times the fee is illegal as AICTE and UGC permits collection of only processing fee, the petitioner contended. It was also alleged in the petition that COMED-K policy allows less meritorious students to get seats in good college as the more meritorious students are not allowed to participate in further rounds of counselling even if seats in good colleges become vacant after initial rounds of counselling.

The petitioner sought directions to allow eligible students to participate in multiple rounds of counselling and restrain COMED-K from implementing its refund policy and collection of hefty fine.

HDK accuses govt. of trying to sell its land to big shots

To release documents in the ongoing legislature session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

H.D. Kumaraswamy

Accusing the State government of attempting to sell government land in Bengaluru worth thousands of crores to influential people, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday said he would release documents pertaining to the alleged scam in the ongoing Legislative Assembly session.

"BJP leaders have been repeatedly demanding documents from me pertaining to allegations of corruption. I will release them," he told reporters, after chairing the JD(S) Legislature Party meeting here on Monday.

₹8,000 crore

"This is a huge scam. It is an attempt to gobble up land worth ₹8,000 crore that is supposed to belong to the government. The issue pertaining to the land is there since 1957 and in 2008-2009 the land was estimated to cost ₹5,000 crore. However, the latest Government Order related to this land is shocking."

He said: "This is just a sample of the government's corruption. Let the BJP leaders digest this. I do not want to waste the time of the House. I will speak on the basis of documents. I will take this scam to the logical end. Public property is being sold just to make money, which has to be stopped." Let the people of Karnataka and Prime Minister Narendra Modi see the level of corruption in the State, he added.

'Watching Cong. move'

Urging the Congress to cooperate to have discussion on this issue as people need to know about the corruption of the government, he said that he would watch the move of the Congress and the priorities that it gives for discussion.

Meanwhile, the JD(S) Legislature Party meeting decided to raise the issue related to rain related damage in 22 districts and the losses caused.

"The ruling and the Principal Opposition are fighting over percentage of corruption and the loot. There is no use in just speaking without documents. I have also asked all my party legislators to raise issues based on documents," he said.

Tributes to Katti, Shimoga Subbanna, and the Queen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Opposition Leader Siddaramaiah, and several members of the Assembly on Monday mourned the death of Minister Umesh Katti, former Minister M. Raghupathy, former members Prabhakara Rane, G.V. Sriram Reddy, K. Kempe Gowda, A.G. Kodgi, singer Shimoga Subbanna, scientist Kodi Kushallappagowda, and Queen Elizabeth II.

Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri moved the obituary reference and recalled the contributions of leaders who passed away recently.

Mr. Bommai said Katti was instrumental in inclusion of ragi and jowar in the list of items given under the public distribution system in the State. He said Shimoga Subbanna was a charismatic singer of Kannada poetry and compared his singing qualities with Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi.

'Colourful personality'

Mr. Siddaramaiah said Raghupathy introduced uniform dress code for government school students in the Ramakrishna Hegde government.

He had abundant knowledge of Bengaluru city. Katti too was a colourful personality and because of his popularity he won as MLA for seven times on different party symbols, he said.

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa also recalled Katti's association with him over the years and Subbanna's favourite songs. Members cutting across party lines paid their tributes to departed leaders and observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

In Council

The Legislative Council too paid rich tributes to the departed personalities. Both the Houses were adjourned for the day after paying homage.

Govt. shielding BJP MLA in PSI recruitment scam: Congress

Audio of MLA admitting to have accepted bribe goes viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Shivaraj Tangadagi

Former Minister and Koppal District Congress president Shivaraj Tangadagi on Monday alleged that the BJP government was shielding Kanakagiri MLA Basavaraj Dhadesugur even after an audio clip in which the MLA was heard admitting to have accepted ₹15 lakh for getting a Police Sub Inspector's (PSI) post to a candidate went viral.

He alleged that 15 candidates in Kanakagiri paid bribes for getting the PSI job. Mr. Thangadagi warned that he would undertake a padayatra from Kanakagiri to Bengaluru demanding the arrest of Mr. Dhadesugur.

Many candidates who paid bribes to the government were scared of coming to the media and were informing the public about the level of corruption in PSI recruitment, Mr. Thangadagi told presspersons here.

Congress MLA Priyank Kharge said the legal wing of the party would file a public interest litigation in the High Court of Karnataka seeking a fair probe in the alleged multi-crore scam.

In the audio clip, Parasappa, father of a PSI post aspirant, says he struck a ₹30 lakh deal at the Legislators' Home and paid ₹15 lakh to the MLA to get his son the job. BJP legislators have become brokers to the Ministers, Mr. Kharge alleged. He said the MLA had not been summoned by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who was the Home Minister when the scam broke out, regarding the video.

In the clip, Mr. Parasappa urged Mr. Dhadesugur to return ₹15 lakh that he had given for the PSI post two years ago. In response, Mr. Dhadesugur admitted to having accepted the money and promised to return it. The telephonic conversation clearly indicates Mr. Dhadesugur's involvement in the scam, which is being probed by CID, he said.

Meanwhile, replying to a query, Mr. Bommai said he did not know whether it was an audio or video clip and it would be examined.

Coffee Board to launch four premium varieties under 'India Coffee' brand

Launch will also include affordable ones such as 100% Arabica, says board CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Coffee Board's collaboration with Amazon is expected to boost domestic coffee consumption. • FILE PHOTO

Coffee Board of India, a body that represents coffee growers and coffee industry in the country, has decided to expand its reach by launching four premium coffees under the 'India Coffee' brand as well as two affordable coffees under the 'Coffees of India' brand on Amazon, said K.G. Jagadeesha, IAS, CEO & Secretary, Coffee Board on Monday.

"Now, we are expanding our reach by launching four premium coffees such as Coorg Arabica Coffee (GI), Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee (GI), 100% Arabica coffee and a blend of Arabica and Robusta under 'India Coffee' brand," he said.

The launch would also include affordable coffees such as 100% Arabica and a blend of Arabica and Robusta under the 'Coffees of India' brand, he said.

"Coffee Board's collaboration with Amazon is expected to boost domestic coffee consumption. Our coffees are sourced from the best coffee estates to suit the taste of millions of coffee connoisseurs across the country," Dr. Jagadeesha added.

> Through this association, a premium range of coffees will be available on Amazon.in, that are sourced from the coffee-producing regions of the country in Karnataka, as per Amazon.

As international price volatility challenges prevail, the Coffee Board was in the process of strengthening the domestic appeal for pure coffee across the country, Coffee Board CEO further stated.

Sourced from Karnataka

Coffee consumption in the country is on the rise. Through this association, a premium range of coffees will be available on Amazon.in, that are sourced from the coffee-producing regions of the country in Karnataka, as per Amazon.

"This is in line with our endeavour to offer flavours of Indian coffee at value offers to our customers," said Nishant Raman, Director - IN Consumables, Amazon India, in a statement.

Exports 70% coffee

The country's coffee exports stood at a rise of 90% in April-June 2022 over the same period in FY 2013-14. As the seventh largest coffee producer in the world, India exports 70% of its coffee overseas.

Acclaimed as a region known for the origin of high-quality coffee, India has created a niche for itself with seven GI-registered coffees that are offered globally, according to Coffee Board.

Boom boom

The first practice session of familiarising the Dasara elephants to the sound of cannon firing went off smoothly outside the Mysuru palace on Monday. Barring a few, most of the elephants remained stable to the sound at the practice conducted by the City Armed Reserve. • M.A. SRIRAM

Hassan airport project gets caught in political crossfire

JD(S) leader Revanna alleges original plan was modified to benefit realtors

SATHISH G.T.
HASSAN

The site for the airport at Boovanahalli on the outskirts of Hassan city. • SATHISH G.T.

The Hassan airport being constructed at Boovanahalli on the outskirts of Hassan city is caught in the political crossfire. Former Minister H.D. Revanna and Hassan MLA Preetham Gowda are engaged in making allegations against each other over modifications to the original plan of the project.

The construction work has begun up in 536 acres of land, though the total land notified for the project is 960 acres. Of the remaining 434 acres, an extent of 214 is government land. The district administration has not acquired the 220 acres from the original owners, citing difficulties to convince the farmers.

DC's Letter

IAS officer R. Girish, who was Deputy Commissioner of Hassan till recently, wrote to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Infrastructure Development Department on June 16, 2021, requesting to start the project within the available 536 acres of land. He stated that acquiring the remaining 220 acres of land could be delayed due to opposition from the landowners.

Mr. Revanna is angry with the IAS officer for this letter. The MLA alleged that the officer joined hands with the local elected representative to benefit the realtors. "Modifications have been made to benefit the vested interests. I am told some people are already in talks with land owners to develop layouts in the land," he alleged.

The JD(S) leader wants the State government to take up the project as per the initial plan, making use of the entire 960 acres of land. He would meet the Chief Minister and put forward his demand, he said.

'In the interest of city'

On the other hand, Mr. Gowda is of the opinion that the modifications had been made in the interest of the city. In the initial plan, a golf club was included.

"Who requires a golf club in Hassan? Why should we acquire farmers' land for a golf course? If Mr. Revanna is keen on having a golf club, let him build one on his private land," he retorted. The MLA said that the land notified would be returned to the original owners.

An airport for Hassan has been a long-pending proposal. It was approved in 2007, when H.D. Kumaraswamy was the Chief Minister, heading the JD(S)-BJP coalition. Former PM H.D. Deve Gowda had laid the foundation stone for the project, proposed under the Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model. Jupiter Aviation Services Ltd. had bagged the work.

Original plan

The original plan included the construction of a hotel, golf club, and aviation training school, besides the runway and terminals. It required 1,19.15 acres. Subsequently, it was reduced to 960 acres and the Hassan district administration acquired 536 acres for the project. However, the builder did not begin the construction stating that it would not start the work on the ground until it got 960 acres. It did not take off.

₹196 crore

When the JD(S)-Congress alliance came to power in 2018, the government cancelled the understanding with the private player. As the coalition government did not last long, the project did not proceed further. Following protests by JD(S) leaders for early implementation of the project, B.S. Yediyurappa, as Chief Minister, allocated ₹196 crore in his Budget for the year 2021.

As per the plan, the work in the first package should end by April 2023. The runway has been planned to accommodate ATR-72 flights. Provision has been made to extend the run-way to land Airbus 320. The process has begun to acquire 24 acres for the purpose.

CySecK inks MoU with Dell to impart cyber safety practices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government's cyber security centre of excellence, CySecK, and IT company Dell Technologies entered into an MoU on Monday to create enhanced cyber security practices, especially among students.

The MoU Was inked in presence of Minister for Higher Education and IT/BT C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the MoU will help impart cyber security awareness and practices among students, startups, and public offices.

He added it will also benefit small and medium scale enterprises.

As per MoU, Dell will provide learning of cyber safety practices through its interactive courses that would be available both in Kannada and English, he said.

Surya Mitra awards announced

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

SELCO has announced its Surya Mitra awards for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Solar energy pioneer, Neville Williams who has promoted solar power applications around the World since 1988 has been chosen for the award for 2020. Richenda Van Leeuwen, a globally recognised energy access expert leading and guiding several global agencies to foster entrepreneurship, will be given the award for 2021, and Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, an NGO working to strengthen the health infrastructure in far flung areas, has been chosen for the award for 2022.

The award presentation ceremony will be held on September 24, 2022, at Ambedkar Bhavan in Vasant Nagar, Bengaluru.

Cong. kept minorities away from BJP: Kateel

'Only Gandhi family and Cong. leaders progressed'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel has accused the Congress of keeping the minorities away from the BJP for the sake of its leaders' selfish gains.

Inaugurating the State-level training camp of the BJP's Minority Morcha here on Monday, he said the Congress projected the BJP as a ghost to the minorities while claiming itself as their saviour. Though the Congress projected itself as a party that would help the minorities progress in life, it was only the Gandhi family and the Congress leaders who progressed, he said.

He sought to remind the gathering that it was the BJP that chose A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for the post of President and a crusader of labour rights, George Fernandes, as the Defence Minister. It also promoted former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi as a leader, he said, and added that the BJP had identified leaders from not only the Muslim community but also the Christian community.

Welfare programmes

The BJP respected everyone who subscribed to a nationalist ideology, he said, adding the party would honour every individual who worshipped and loved this country. The BJP would oppose and condemn people who were against the country, engaged in terrorist activities and raised slogans in favour of Pakistan, he said.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public Health),
BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: C.H.O(P.H)/PR/P-90/2022-23 Date: 12-09-2022

CORRIGENDUM

Applications were invited from eligible candidates vide paper Notification of this office No: **C.H.O(P.H)/PR/P-90/2022-23 Dated: 21-07-2022 and 03-08-2022** to appoint for the Post of Class Four Employees for a period of 01 year on contract basis through Walk-in Selection Process on Merit Cum Roster basis to work at **243 'Namma Clinics'** approved under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike limits. **Due to Technical and Administrative reasons, the selection process for the Post of Class Four Employees is Cancelled.** Other things of the said notification remain unaltered.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (P.H), BBMP.

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

IN BRIEF

Jagan orders audits of Nadu-Nedu schools

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has ordered monthly audits of schools revamped under the Nadu-Nedu scheme to take stock of the facilities and their upkeep. Chairing a review meeting on Monday, Mr. Reddy said the audit should also cover utilisation of maintenance fund.

Bodies of 4 who drowned during festival retrieved

KAKINADA

The bodies of four persons, who drowned in two separate incidents during the immersion of Ganesha idols in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, were found off the Uppada beach and Pithapuram Branch Canal on Monday.

Shamseer elected Kerala Speaker

He defeats UDF's Anwar Sadat by 96 to 40 votes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) legislator A.N. Shamseer was elected Speaker of the Kerala Assembly on Monday.

Mr. Shamseer, who was the Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate in the election to the post, defeated Congress MLA and United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Anwar Sadat by 96 to 40 votes. Mr. Shamseer's victory was expected as the LDF has 99 seats against 41 of the UDF in the House.

Mr. Shamseer succeeds his party colleague M.B. Rajesh as the Speaker. The post fell vacant after the latter replaced M.V. Govindan as Minister for Local Self-Government following a rejig in the Pinarayi Vijayan Ministry.

New role: A.N. Shamseer with Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Opposition leader V.D. Satheesan in the Assembly on Monday.

Mr. Govindan had stepped down as Minister to take over as State secretary of the CPI(M).

Mr. Shamseer, who represents the Thalassery constituency in Kannur district, is the 24th Speaker of the Kerala Assembly.

Deputy Speaker Chittayam Gopakumar oversaw the election held at the Legislative Assembly. Polling began at 10 a.m. and ended at 10.33 a.m. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was the first to cast the vote. On the LDF side, the Deputy Speaker did not vote. Minister for Water Resources Roshy Augustine and Aroor MLA Daleema Jojo on the LDF side, and Manjeri MLA U.A. Latheef on the UDF side did not vote as they were out of station.

Entry into politics

Hailing from Thalassery, Mr. Shamseer, 45, entered politics through the SFI. He later held the posts of State secretary and all-India joint secretary of the SFI and State president of the DYFI. Mr. Shamseer was first elected to the Kerala Assembly in 2016 from Thalassery.

The CPI(M) fielded him from the Vadakara constituency in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, but he lost to Mullappally Ramachandran of the Congress.

Mr. Shamseer, who is a postgraduate in Law and Anthropology, is married to P.M. Sahala. The couple has a son.

GHMC in a fix as monkeys have a free run

SWATHI VADLAMUDI
HYDERABAD

The menace of monkeys continues to persist in several areas of the city, while GHMC, for all practical purposes, has abdicated its responsibility to control them.

The primates roam around freely on roads, within residential premises, and occasionally even attack people, terrifying the city residents.

The problem is especially high in areas such as Padmarao Nagar, New Bhoiguda, Telecom Nagar Colony, Gachibowli, and Musheerabad, besides peripheral regions of the city, closer to the forested areas. "During recent summer, a troop of monkeys would visit our locality practically every day, forcing us to keep the children indoors during holidays. They got very bold and would snatch things from our hands," E. Vani, resident of Telephone Colony in Kothapet shared.

Complaints to the GHMC would not yield any response, and any occasional response would be to install a cage with bait in it.

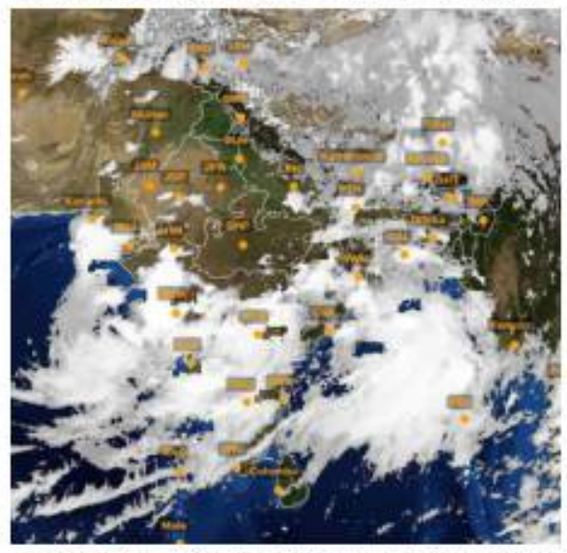
Watching a single monkey get caught in the cage, the other members of the troop would escape immediately, resulting in temporary relief to that particular colony.

Number of monkeys caught by the civic body has come down over the years, more so during the past two years.

Officials informed that there has been no response for quite a few years to the tender notifications inviting bids for catching monkeys. Earlier too, only one family, whose traditional occupation was catching monkeys, would bid for the job, informed officials.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Bihar, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	32.1	25.6	Kozhikode	–	31.6	26.6
Ahmedabad	8	33.0	25.2	Kurnool	–	30.9	24.2
Aizawl	6	–	20.9	Lucknow	–	33.5	26.1
Allahabad	–	30.7	26.2	Madurai	–	37.4	24.0
Bengaluru	0.8	28.3	20.1	Mangaluru	2.9	28.6	24.3
Bhopal	–	31.0	24.8	Mumbai	2	30.5	25.2
Bhubaneswar	43	30.3	25.5	Mysuru	–	31.0	21.2
Chandigarh	–	35.8	26.5	New Delhi	–	37.3	27.4
Chennai	–	35.8	26.8	Patna	3	31.4	26.2
Coimbatore	–	30.6	23.0	Port Blair	–	31.7	25.2
Dehradun	–	33.4	23.9	Puducherry	–	36.2	24.2
Gangtok	3	19.8	17.0	Pune	74	28.0	21.5
Goa	28	27.5	24.2	Raipur	25	30.8	23.8
Guwahati	35	32.8	24.3	Ranchi	26	26.1	22.1
Hubballi	–	26.0	22.0	Shillong	1	23.6	17.0
Hyderabad	3	28.7	21.8	Shimla	90	22.5	13.8
Imphal	0.9	29.5	20.6	Srinagar	0.5	27.9	14.2
Jaipur	0.6	34.4	26.5	Thiruvananthapuram	5	30.5	24.7
Kochi	–	29.8	26.0	Tiruchi	–	35.9	24.5
Kohima	9	25.2	16.6	Vijayawada	0.4	35.0	25.0
Kolkata	43	26.6	2.9	Visakhapatnam	7	30.6	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	72	56	.40	38	51	
Bengaluru	7	11	.22	40	50	
Chennai	3	22	112	67	62	
Delhi	12	32	.46	58	112	
Hyderabad	20	14	.95	29	53	
Kolkata	7	28	.17	21	28	
Lucknow	10	63	.42	19	64	
Mumbai	6	20	.68	53	62	
Pune	–	39	.93	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	26	37	.29	43	73	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kochi, Kerala recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 155 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Satna, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Action plan to address stray dog menace

Kerala government to move top court for permission to cull rabies-affected and violent stray dogs

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid the spiralling number of stray dog attacks, Kerala Minister for Local Self Governments M.B. Rajesh on Monday announced an action plan to address the issue, following a high-level meeting with officials of the Local Self-Government, Health, and Animal Husbandry departments.

The multi-pronged plan involves a massive vaccination drive for stray dogs, setting up of dog shelters in all panchayats and blocks, and clearing up of waste dumps from public spaces.

The volunteer force, which was formed in the aftermath of floods and the COVID-19 outbreak, will be reactivated for the vaccination drive, Mr. Rajesh told a press conference after the meeting.

Wrong move: A woman feeding strays in Kozhikode though the Corporation has imposed curbs on the activity. • K. RAJESH

"The intensive vaccination drive, which will begin on September 20, is expected to be completed within one month. The State at present has a stock of six lakh doses of vaccines. More doses will be procured," he said.

"We have to approach this at two levels. Right now, we are focusing on emergency measures to address the fear among the public, arising due to the deaths from dog bites. The massive vaccination drive is aimed at addressing this fear. The drive will start off with our trained dog catchers, but their numbers are not sufficient. Those who are willing from among our volunteer force and people made available by Kudumbashree will be trained for this purpose with the help of the veterinary university," the Minister said.

The State government would also approach the Supreme Court against a High Court order which barred Kudumbashree from being part of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme. The government would also appeal the apex court for permission to cull rabies-affected and violent stray dogs.

Mr. Rajesh said the government would also explore the possibilities of administering oral vaccination through the food being provided to stray dogs, as it was impractical to catch and vaccinate all stray dogs. Experts from the field pointed to successful oral vaccination drives conducted in Goa and Chandigarh.

The vaccination drive for pet dogs would also progress simultaneously, with an aim to complete vaccination before October 30. Special camps would be organised, if needed. Application for pet dog licence would be made available in the citizen portal.

Hitting the roads

Loud and clear: Amaravati farmers began their second phase of 'maha padayatra' on Monday. They have been opposing the three-capital move of the Andhra Pradesh government and demand to keep Amaravati as the capital. • KVS GIRI

'Attaching AIADMK office extraordinary measure'

Supreme Court dismisses OPS' plea on party office

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the attachment of the AIADMK party office was an 'extreme' measure in a democracy, even as it did not entertain former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam's plea against a Madras High Court order which later gave the keys of the building to his rival Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

A Bench, led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, said the High Court's decision two months ago had more or less restored the peace.

The trouble began when the followers of Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami clashed outside the party headquarters following a general council meeting on July 11.

The meeting witnessed the expulsion of Mr. Panneerselvam from the party. After this, the South Chennai Revenue Divisional Officer sealed and attached the party headquarters.

The Supreme court said Madras High Court's decision two months ago has more or less restored the peace. • FILE PHOTO

The High Court, acting on the respective appeals of both leaders, set aside the Revenue Department's order and gave the possession of the office building to Mr. Palaniswami. Mr. Panneerselvam moved the Supreme Court. "To attach the office of a political party is an extraordinary measure," Justice Chandrachud observed.

> **Clash happened outside the party office. In that case, it was a law and order problem**
>
> HIGH COURT

The court said the clash happened outside the party office. In that case, it was a law and order problem.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, K.V. Vishwanathan and Huzefa Ahmedi and advocate Balaji Srinivasan appeared for Mr. Palaniswami, and senior advocates Ranjit Kumar and Guru Krishnakumar for Mr. Panneerselvam.

Flood warning issued at Bhadrachalam

STAFF REPORTER
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

The first flood warning for the Godavari river has been issued after the water level crossed the 43.20-foot mark at Bhadrachalam in Telangana at 3.15 p.m. on Monday.

The officials said that the inflows are expected to go up.

At Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram, all 175 gates have been lifted to release 7.05 lakh cusecs of water.

Correction

In the report 'Activist, who fought against illegal quarries, run over by truck in Karur' that appeared in these columns on Monday, the photo caption should have been R. Jaganathan, and not as published.

KCR steps up attack on Centre from floor of Telangana House

Chief Minister alleges conspiracy behind power reforms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Ahead of his plans to float a national political party, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who is also the president of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), has stepped up attack against the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this time from the floor of the Assembly.

While speaking on a short discussion on Central Electricity Bill in the Assembly on Monday, he alleged that the BJP government's practise of divisive and communal politics is leading the country towards foodgrains crisis, unabated inflation, rising prices, falling rupee value and falling of stature before the international community.

K. Chandrasekhar Rao

Apparently referring to the Prime Minister as "vishwaguru" repeatedly in his over 90-minute reply, the Chief Minister said in spite of making tall claims of "Make in India" the country was forced to depend on China for shaving blades, nail cutters, crackers, kite-flying thread (manja) and even national flags. He alleged that writing off corporates' debt of ₹12 lakh crore by terming them as NPAs (non-performing assets) was a scam.

Alleging that the larger conspiracy behind the Centre's policies, including power reforms, was to make farmers give up agriculture with the burden of costs and pave way for entry of private companies for taking up farming and ultimately controlling the price of food, he said.

Mud games bring curtains on Onam in Kerala hamlet

Unique games, including duck catching and pillow fighting, entertain crowds in Alukkal village

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM

A village named Alukkal near Areekode witnessed a unique sporting event that brought curtains down on Onam celebrations in the region. The event named Chalikkalam 2022 beckoned holiday crowds to witness several unique games conducted in mud.

The newly opened Perunkadavu bridge at Kuniyil brought villagers of Areekode and Keezhuparamba panchayats to witness some of the hilarious games over the weekend. The spectators laughed their heads off as the contestants slipped and fell in the mud, smearing themselves in mud.

Muddy fight: A tug of war competition held as part of the Chaliikkalam 2020 festival in Malappuram. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

Among the games that evoked maximum cheer from crowds were blind-folded duck catching in the mud, pillow fighting in the mud, running in the mud, and tug of war in the mud. None of those games was unfamiliar to the crowd, but it was their first experience in the mud.

"Even for us the organisers, the games evoked much laughter. It was great fun and memorable," said Fazil V.C., vice president of the Young Men's Sports and Arts (YMSA) Club, which conducted the event.

YMSA Club has been functional for about 40 years. "But this was our first experience in mud for Onam," said Mr. Fazil.

Abhinav, a polytechnic student from Alukkal, won the first prize in the duck catching competition. Blind-folded, Mr. Abhinav took more than five minutes to catch the duck placed in an enclosure in the mud. Spectators laughed as the contestants went after a lone duck in the muddy water. The winner got the duck as a gift.

The pillow fight by sitting on a slippery pole erected in the mud provided a funny and memorable experience both for the participants and the spectators. Rashad from Alukkal emerged the winner by beating all other contestants with his pillow.

Another individual contest that evoked much laughter was a 50-metre race through the mud after being made to go round a stool many times. Contestants appeared disoriented after rotating and they fell invariably in the mud.

The tug of war conducted in the mud stole the show as several village teams vied for the first prize. Unlike the usual tug of war, none was in control as they pulled each other in mud.

"In mud, getting a firm grip or stand is nearly impossible," said Mr. Fazil.

Three to tangle

The Pakistan factor should not undermine India's close security ties with the U.S.

India is understandably upset with the U.S.'s decision to refurbish the F-16 fighter fleet of Pakistan. The fleet has been the backbone of the Pakistan Air Force since the early 1980s, upgraded, and replenished periodically. As the partnership between the two countries grew over the years, including and particularly in the defence sector, India continuously raised its concerns on this account with U.S. interlocutors. Successive U.S. administrations have maintained that the defence partnership with Pakistan, which is a major non-NATO ally, is a critical component of its global war on terror – a point contested by India. In 2016, the U.S. Congress stalled the Obama administration's move to give more F-16 fighters to Pakistan. New Delhi's apprehensions came true in February 2019, a day after the Balakot air strike by the Indian Air Force, when Pakistan deployed its F-16s to target Indian military bases close to the Line of Control. The Indian Army recovered debris of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile fired by the F-16s. On September 7, the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified a possible Foreign Military Sales worth $450 million for engine, electronic warfare and other hardware and software upgrades and spares for Pakistan's F-16s. Though it said that the proposed sale does not include any new capabilities, weapons, or munitions, the move clearly marks a thaw in the U.S.'s attitude towards Pakistan.

The External Affairs Ministry has chosen to maintain its silence on the issue, unlike its public expression of summoning the U.S. Ambassador in 2016. The U.S. move strains its relationship with India which has been making great strides, though it is not without obstacles. New Delhi and Washington have been skilfully managing their differences over Afghanistan, the crisis in Ukraine, and the lingering threat of U.S. sanctions under its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. Washington's new warmth with Islamabad also comes amid a flurry of India-U.S. diplomatic and military engagements. India and the U.S. have committed to deepening defence and security cooperation, but the indulgence of Pakistan dampens that spirit. The Trump administration had tried to hold Pakistan accountable for duplicity in its approach towards terrorist groups operating from its territory, which amounts to running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. To stay in Afghanistan, the U.S. needed Pakistan; now to stay away from Afghanistan it needs Pakistan even more. While the U.S. may have its reasons to keep Pakistan hu-moured and incentivised, India's concerns are immediate and real. Terrorism against India has been Pakistan's state policy for decades. Far from seeking accountability, the U.S. is rewarding Pakistan, and more on the same lines may in the offing. India and the U.S. need to work to ensure that the spectacular gains made in bilateral ties are preserved and nourished.

Well won

Sri Lanka and Pakistan gave their fans back home something to cheer about

Originally pencilled in as the host, it was fitting that Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup even if the championship was held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The debilitating economic crisis in the island-nation meant that Sri Lanka had to shift the continental tournament's base to the UAE but even in the desert sands, Dasun Shanaka's men felt at home. And during Sunday's final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Sri Lanka defied the odds to defeat Pakistan by 23 runs. In a tournament where teams chasing have often prevailed, Sri Lanka was struggling at 58 for five before a rear-guard action from Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Wanindu Hasaranga meant that the eventual champion posted 170 for six in 20 overs. It was not a steep target but summit clashes unleash excess pressure and Pakistan failed to get past the wily Sri Lankans. Seamer Pramod Madushan's four wickets and spinner Hasaranga's all-round turn with three scalps, meant that Pakistan wound up at 147. It may have been despair for Babar Azam's men but there is no mistaking the overall joy that both the finalists gifted to their respective fans. If Sri Lanka is yet to get over its financial issues back home, Pakistan is struggling with severe floods that have affected lives and struck at its economy. Surely, cricket offered some cheer.

If Sri Lanka lost its first game against Afghanistan and yet lasted the distance and won the title, the reverse happened for India. In the preliminary rounds Rohit Sharma's men dominated; however, in the super-four stage, India succumbed to both Pakistan and Sri Lanka and even if Afghanistan was quelled, the exit door remained open. Having won the Asia Cup on seven occasions, the latest edition offered a sobering note to India. The top order troika of Rohit, K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli need to fire in unison. Even if Kohli ended his century-drought with a ton against Afghanistan, his return to form was muddled with angst-laden quotes in a press conference, where he spoke about his last days of national captaincy. A Kohli scoring runs is essential, but equally, India needs the former skipper to forget past grouses. In a year where even the Asia Cup, a traditional ODI tournament, acquired a T20 garb all because of the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia from October 16 to November 13, it is disconcerting that the Indian playing eleven remains a work in progress. The squad for the premier event was announced on Monday and it is good that spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, having recovered from his injury, is back while the injured Ravindra Jadeja misses out. The forthcoming T20Is against the visiting Australians and South Africans should help the management in fine-tuning its plans.

'Bharat Jodo' and 'Congress Jodo' as opportunities

The despair over the overweening dominance of one party and its increasingly divisive governance needs to end

SHASHI THAROOR

The current level of interest in the Indian National Congress party is attributable to two events: the start of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, in which Rahul Gandhi is leading marchers for 150 days from Kanniyakumari to Kashmir in a bid to "unite India", and the announcement of elections to the Presidency of the party over a period of four weeks, culminating on October 19.

Stemming the tide

Both developments promise to shift media commentary away from the habitual hand-wringing over the party's failure to improve its electoral vote share since 2014 and its repeated loss of State Assembly elections in recent years. They were much needed. It is true that the Congress has bounced back from similar setbacks in the past – electorally, after defeats in 1977 and 1989, politically after a trough between 1996 and 2004, and even after the tragic assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, in 1984 and 1991 (both of which were immediately followed by general election victories for the Congress). But the crisis of seemingly aimless drift that followed the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as President after the election loss of 2019 has dragged on for more than three years, and here, finally, are two measures to arrest it.

In many ways the Congress party is engaged in an existential struggle, to defend the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution. The Bharat Jodo Yatra is a hugely important contribution to this effort; the ongoing march, and interactions with common citizens along the way, could help define and shape the message. But the struggle for India's soul will not cease after the *yatra* ends. While the Congress is working with everyone, including other parties (it was the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, who launched the *yatra* by symbolically handing over the national flag to Rahul Gandhi), non-political individuals and civil society groups, any such major activity undertaken by a political party, undoubtedly, has a political message. And that message is that the Congress is the party that can unite India and stop the process of dividing Indians on the basis of religion, caste and language – a process that is being zealously promoted by the ruling party.

'Name-changing' government

The success of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in foregrounding Hindutva as its leitmotiv, while appropriating for itself the populist welfarism that had been the hallmark of previous Congress governments, makes it all the more urgent for the Congress to define and shape its message. To my mind, that can only be one of "Inclusive India" – an India that works for all, irrespective of religion, region, language or caste, as opposed to the "Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan" cry of the Sangh Parivar. As for welfare, there are two arguments the Congress can put forward: first, that its welfare projects were based on an understanding of Indians as rights-bearing citizens entitled to these benefits, whereas the BJP government sees them only as beneficiaries who are supposed to be "grateful" to the Prime Minister and his party for bestowing his (albeit taxpayer-funded) largesse upon them. And second, that while both United Progressive

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Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance opened bank accounts, made welfare payments and ran development programmes, the Congress not only devised most of these schemes first but oversaw them through competent Ministers and administrators, of whom the party still has an abundance. The BJP has merely taken them over and renamed them. They have been a name-changing government, not a game-changing government.

The presidential election

Turning to the party presidential election, it is an internal exercise, but it also represents an opportunity to ignite widespread public interest in the Congress and to galvanise its party workers. Now that the Gandhi family has chosen to step aside from the election, the prospect of a number of candidates putting forward their visions for the party and the nation, and submitting themselves to a democratic vote, is stimulating. It also points to the fact that no other Indian political party has a comparable process to determine its future leadership, and by adhering to its Constitution, the Congress can set a standard that may finally drag other parties into the sunlight of internal democracy.

The key challenge remains that whoever is elected, the Congress will have to find a way to appeal beyond the 19% of the electorate that voted for the party in both 2014 and 2019 and may be considered the hard-core "true believers" in the party. The party has to find a way to appeal to those who did not vote for it in those two elections and drifted away to the BJP, most of whom did so for reasons other than Hindutva. This would require a leader who looks beyond history to speak to the aspirations of young India – one who firmly believes the party can set the country on the route to a better society, one that is ready to take on the opportunities offered by the world of the 21st century.

If the new president is purely an organisational person, while he or she may be able to lead the workers and strengthen the foundations of the party, they may be unable to galvanise wider interest and bring in the support of more voters to the party. If the president is a charismatic figure but has poor organisational skills, while he or she may be personally appealing to the national electorate, they are unlikely to find a fully supportive party machinery to help translate their charisma and natural appeal into electoral results. The challenge for the Congress is both to articulate a positive and aspirational vision for the nation and to fix the organisational and structural deficiencies that have impeded its recent efforts.

The answer lies in a combination of effective leadership and organisational reform, to reduce the "High Command" culture in the party, decentralise authority and truly empower the grassroots office-bearers of the party. There is no reason, for instance, that District Congress chiefs must be approved by the party president in New Delhi, nor for a Pradesh Congress head to be answerable to a general secretary breathing down his neck from the national capital. Re-imagining the organisation and delegating powers to State leaders will not only free the new leader from the onerous burdens of over-administration but also help create the strong State leadership that in past eras undergirded the Congress's national appeal.

Catalyst for reforms

In the context of a presidential election, a fresh leader, who has not been jaded by being entrenched within the current system for too long, could emerge who could do both – energise a party that certainly needs it and at the same time, appeal to more voters than the Congress managed to during the last few elections. A democratic contest will bring vibrancy at all levels by prompting a healthy and constructive discussion on reforms – around proposals like the decentralisation of power and authority, giving State units a free hand in the appointment of office-bearers and district presidents, and repairing the breakdown of consultative mechanisms within the Congress through a democratic and collective decision-making process at the national level (which would involve reviving the Parliamentary Board provided for in the party Constitution as well as elections to the Congress Working Committee).

It can be done, and the Congress can do it. The people of India, despairing of the BJP's overweening dominance and increasingly divisive governance, need us to perform both "Bharat Jodo"and "Congress Jodo". The *yatra* and the upcoming election are both opportunities we must decisively seize, in the national interest. India deserves no less.

Shashi Tharoor, of the Congress party, has been elected three times to the Lok Sabha from Thiruvananthapuram. He is Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information & Technology and founder-Chairman of the All India Professionals' Congress. He has authored 24 books, including a biography of Nehru and a forthcoming life of Ambedkar

India has lost its way in the use of international law

Unlike in the West, its generalist diplomats and policy-makers rarely employ the international law vocabulary extensively

PRABHASH RANJAN

Seventy-five years of India's Independence is an occasion to not just rejoice in our accomplishments but also to introspect on our failings. While a wide variety of issues have been discussed from this vantage point, an analysis of India's tryst with international law has not been undertaken.

Despite international law being ruler's law and its euro-centric character, India did not jettison it at the time of its independence. India's Constitution makers saw the value of international law and thus provided in Article 51 that the state shall foster respect for international law. At the same time, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, India made it abundantly clear that the emergence of post-colonial States has transmuted the 'geography' of international law. India asserted its sovereignty and championed the principle of self-determination in international law including by playing a key role in organising the first Asian-African Conference at Bandung in 1955, proclaiming that colonialism should "speedily be brought to an end".

Since those days, India has remained steadfastly committed to the UN Charter and has always advocated the peaceful settlement of international disputes. Over the years, India's engagement with international law norms in multiple fields such as human rights, trade, investment, environment, ocean, space, etc. has expanded vastly. India has played an active role in shaping international law on terrorism by proposing a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), and recently initiated the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a bold attempt to influence international environmental law.

Absence of lawfare

Notwithstanding these achievements, India's engagement with international law has been marginal, especially in articulating its national interests internationally. Unlike their western counterparts who justify the conduct of international relations by embedding it in the language of international law to gain legitimacy for their actions, India's generalist diplomats and policy-makers rarely employ the international law vocabulary extensively. The most obvious example of this is India's failure to use the international law vocabulary to call out Chinese transgressions of India's sovereignty.

A similar pattern emerges in India's dealing with Pakistan. An important example is India's statement as part of the right of reply in September 2021 in the United Nations. In this statement, India rightly rubbished Pakistan's falsehoods against India on the issue of Kashmir and made a case of Pakistan sponsoring terrorism. Strangely, the Indian statement did not once mention 'international law', forget citing Pakistan's specific breaches of the treaty and customary international law. Barring a few instances such as suing Pakis-

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tan at the International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case, India has not used international courts to hold Pakistan accountable for its breach of international law. The most striking example is India's failure to legally challenge Pakistan's denial of most favoured nation status to India at the World Trade Organization.

This failure to mainstream the lexicon of international law in the diplomatic toolkit has resulted in India's failure to develop and contribute new international law doctrines, interpretations, and principles that suit its national interests, barring a few initiatives such as the CCIT and ISA.

Institutional bottlenecks

A major reason for India's failure to effectively employ the international law vocabulary is that its foreign service is heavily populated by generalist diplomats who are wedded to the theories of international relations. The only section in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) that looks at international law is the legal and treaties (L&T) division. But this division is grossly understaffed. As in a 2021 report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, the L&T division has a strength of 13 offices as opposed to an approved strength of 23. Furthermore, one is unsure of the quality of talent that the L&T division is able to attract because there are far greater incentives for an international lawyer to join the government as a generalist diplomat than as a technocrat. Adding insult to injury is the fragmentation of decision-making in international law with the involvement of several Ministries such as finance, commerce, law, environment, etc. dealing with different facets of international law. To overcome the fragmentation-related problems, a parliamentary committee report in 2016 recommended the creation of a 'department of international law' under the Law Ministry. But precious little has been done so far.

Academic obstructions

Academically, international law has largely remained a neglected discipline in the last 75 years, which explains poor state-capacity in this area. Notwithstanding the presence of a few outstanding international law professors, our universities have not invested much in the development of the discipline. The Government has failed to fund research in international law. Realising India's abysmal capacity in international law, the report of the parliamentary committee in 2021 recommended that the MEA establish chairs for research in international law in universities. The MEA funds research centres such as the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). But the ICWA focuses largely on the study of international relations, not international law. China, on the other hand, has poured in massive resources to build the capacity of its universities in international law, which has benefited the Chinese government as well.

The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), established in 1959, was supposed to become a centre of excellence for research in international law. However, ISIL has failed in producing worthwhile research in international law. Its flagship journal, *the Indian Journal of International Law* (IJIL), is nowhere close to the top international law journals in the world despite being over 60 years old. In contrast, the *Chinese Journal of International Law* launched just two decades back, is one of the top-ranked journals in the world. While ISIL organises events on international law, there is a conspicuous drop in quality and rigour.

Unlike in other countries, there is hardly any truck between the international law professors and the Government on pressing international law challenges. International law academicians, on their part, have failed to popularise international law. This is in stark contrast to academicians in international relations and social sciences who write for the masses, not just for specialised audiences.

India's ambition of punching above its weight in international affairs cannot be accomplished without its investing in international law. Let us hope that those who sit in South Block act expeditiously.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A push back

Russian forces ceding ground in the Kharkiv region to Ukrainian forces signals a minor victory for Kyiv in the 200-day war. However, what is cause for grave concern is the state of the giant nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. The world cannot afford to have a great nuclear catastrophe and every effort must be made to secure and stabilise it.

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,
Bengaluru

■ That Ukraine is making some small gains will send out the signal that occupation of another's land is not welcome. The world needs to end this war.

J. EDEN ALEXANDER,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

***Yatra* and politics**

The moot point is whether the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will strike a chord in the common man. Other than boosting the sagging morale of the State-level party bosses, these road shows serve no earthly purpose. There is no doubt that the 'Oust Modi' campaign among the Opposition is gaining steam, but it seems the fire is being lit too early to sustain the heat till 2024. Public memory is always short as the tempo generated only at the time of elections determines how the political wind sways the mood-swings of the electorate.

SIVAMANI VASUDEVAN,
Chennai

■ By now it is clear that Opposition unity is likely to remain a mirage. Of course, the ruling party has to be cut to size and the government at the Centre has to be much more representative of diverse aspirations. However, the best way to achieve this is to work quietly in order to achieve this objective. Too much publicity is not a good thing for partnerships.

PREETHA SALIL,
Mumbai

Erasing 'symbols'

If Rajpath is a 'symbol of slavery', so too are a thousand other things that took shape during the Raj: the railways, postal network, the armed forces, the police, the legislature, the judiciary, the executive, the entire administrative set up. The list can go on as there would be no end to the 'symbols of slavery'. We cannot keep erasing these 'symbols'. Such 'emotive points' are a cover for wasteful expenditure, and a ploy to forestall any opposition to fancy projects, which are a confusion when it comes to priorities.

R. THOMAS PAUL,
Bengaluru

Hike in power tariff

The steep increase in the power tariff announced by the Tamil Nadu government is an unwarranted act especially when people are already finding it extremely difficult to make both ends meet due to the rise in essential commodities. The billing mode needs to be reset too – a long-standing request of consumers.

SHALINI GERALD,
Chennai

Asian champion

For a country beset by political turmoil and an economic meltdown, the triumph in the Asia Cup is a shot in the arm and serves as a morale booster for the emerald island. Sri Lanka is a strong bowling outfit and comprehensively beat Pakistan. A lesson for the Men in Blue: bowler-all rounders who can chip in with the bat like Wanindu Hasaranga, Chamika Karunaratne and Dasun Shanaka are the need.

A.V. NARAYANAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Great G20 power, great responsibility

India will have the opportunity to assume centre stage in setting the global agenda

RAJESH MEHTA & MOHIT ANAND

File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) at the G20 summit in Osaka in 2019. • REUTERS

September is a hectic month in India's diplomatic calendar. On September 5-6 in New Delhi, a 'Senior Officers Meeting' was held of the Quad, which comprises India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. On September 8, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and their Japanese counterparts held the second India-Japan '2+2' Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo to take forward strategic cooperation in areas such as joint exercises, defence manufacturing and emerging technologies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16. This will be the first in-person summit of the SCO since the COVID-19 pandemic. This visit will be watched closely by the West and by India's Quad partners for India's engagement with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as the Russian war in Ukraine has completed more than six months. This will also be the first time that Mr. Modi will be meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping face to face, since the transgressions of the People's Liberation Army at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) began in April 2020. The Indian government has said India and China will take up remaining issues along the LAC when the disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 in Gogra-Hot Springs is completed; therefore, any contact with the Chinese leader will be significant. India will be assuming rotational presidency of the SCO at the end of the Samarkand summit and will hold it for a year until September 2023. It will host the SCO summit next year.

It will also preside as President of the United Nations Security Council for December 2022.

Presidency of G20

But before that, in November, the 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will take place in Bali. After Indonesia, India will assume the presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. It is slated to host several ministerial meetings, working groups, and events before the G20 Head of State summit next year.

By hosting the summit of the G20, the world's most influential economic multilateral forum, India will have the opportunity to assume centre stage in proposing and setting the global agenda and discourse. The G20 holds a strategic role in securing global economic growth and prosperity. Together, its members represent more than 80% of the world's GDP, 75% of international trade and 60% of the world's population. It will arguably be the most high-profile event ever hosted by India. The country's leadership potential and diplomatic foresight in organising such a big-ticket event and in arriving at meaningful outcomes will be tested.

In a world affected by the pandemic and the Ukraine conflict, the rise of an assertive China, economic challenges such as stagflation, terrorism, and climate change, to name a few, it needs to be seen what role India can play under its watch as President of the G20. To begin with, India can take cues from Indonesia's presidency and observe how it is managing the group which is deeply divided on various issues. Indonesia has focused on three key pillars: global health architecture, sustainable energy transition, and digital transformation. This template could be useful for India in forging a comprehensive agenda.

India can assert its political, economic and intellectual leadership while hosting the G20 presidency. But it will have to perform a delicate balancing act. On the one hand, we have the West, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and G7 partner nations setting the agenda. And on the other, we have an emerging nexus between China and Russia, which are taking divergent views from the first group. India might be caught in the middle as it is part of both the Quad and the SCO which somewhat lie on the opposing sides of the geopolitical spectrum. So, India might have to address issues that help in bridging the emerging divide in the world order.

Notwithstanding the noise and opposing views at this forum, India can find a common ground for setting its G20 agenda by addressing issues of global concern. Simultaneously, it needs to promote its specific priorities related to domestic and regional issues such as economic recovery, trade and investment, unemployment, patent waivers on diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines to tackle COVID-19 and terrorism. More specifically, India could forge greater cooperation with many G20 members such as the European Union, the U.K., and Canada, thereby accelerating their coordination on realising free trade agreements. The overarching issues could be related to charting a road map for quick global economic recovery, focusing on the supply chain resilience mechanism and stressing on green and digital transformations in the economy and its impact on societal well-being. This would ensure a sustainable and inclusive growth for the global economy.

G20 is a unique global institution, where developed and developing countries have equal stature. It offers India an opportunity to also champion the causes of developing and least developed countries so as to ensure that this summit does not turn out to be a western-dominated high table gathering or one where large economies impose their aspirations on the world. India could invite and engage countries from Africa and South America to ensure better and more balanced representation at the G20. Areas such as technology transfer, assistance towards green economy, greater access to trade for developing countries, addressing debt distress of countries by offering sustainable aid and loan programmes, tackling food and energy prices/security for vulnerable economies etc. could be relevant. As Harsh V. Shringla, India's chief G20 coordinator and former Foreign Secretary, recently said, "Our G20 Presidency would place India on the global stage, and provide an opportunity for India to place its priorities and narratives on the global agenda."

A testing time

The coming months will be a testing time for Indian foreign policy and diplomacy as the country prepares to host the G20 and SCO summits next year. India will be central in outlining key priority areas and in ensuring that the forum does not remain just a 'talk shop' but translates into a 'walk shop' in terms of meaningful actions and outcomes. Only this will give credibility to India's pivotal role in the international community.

On its 75th year of independence, India could start charting a meaningful agenda and contribute towards the international community. Its role towards either brokering or breaking deals could define the coming years and decades of global discourse and avenues of cooperation.

Rajesh Mehta is a leading international affairs expert and Mohit Anand is Professor of International Business and Strategy at EMLYON Business School, France

Top secrets at Mar-a-Lago

The institution of the presidency in the U.S. has been harmed to an extent that few would have imagined

SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI

A poorly executed break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, DC in June 1972 and the subsequent destruction of 18 minutes of taped evidence forced President Richard Nixon to resign in August 1974.

The contrast of August 8, 2022 could not have been starker, when special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) visited former President Donald Trump's Florida home, Mar-a-Lago, with a lawful search warrant and found top secret and sensitive documents. The search and seizure were unprecedented. In a tone of injured innocence, Mr. Trump said later, "All that they had to do was just ask" – even though that is precisely what the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Justice Department have been doing for over a year.

Classified documents amid magazines

The timeline is troubling. In January, NARA retrieved 15 boxes of White House records that had been sent to Mar-a-Lago instead of NARA, as required by law. The documents included a letter to Mr. Trump from his predecessor as well as Mr. Trump's self-described "love letters" with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. But when NARA found classified documents too in the boxes, it informed the Justice Department, and the FBI got involved. Subsequent court filings revealed that the FBI found 67 documents marked "confidential", 92 as "secret" and 25 as "top secret". The Justice Department got a grand jury subpoena in May, demanding any classified materials that were still at Mar-a-Lago. Mr. Trump's lawyers turned over some subpoenaed documents in June. This was followed by the FBI raid in August in which the agency took away 25 more boxes and found that some documents had the markings of the highest levels of security classifications. What officials found especially galling was that these documents were found amid newspapers and magazines. This makes even a lay person wonder about Mr. Trump's motives or extreme carelessness.

Except for staunch supporters of Mr. Trump, conservatives in the Grand Old Party and right-wing media houses are seeing the near-end of a game that the former President has been playing for close to two years, i.e., keeping alive not only the bogus theories about the 2020 presidential election, but also public interest should he decide to contest in 2024. In a frantic attempt to raise the noise threshold, Mr. Trump and his lawyers demanded that a special master be appointed to ensure a fair assessment of the documents, including potential attorney-client privilege papers, taken away in the raid. The Trump-appointed district judge, Aileen Cannon, agreed to the demand, but this does not matter. Proper procedure was followed earlier too, in cases involving Mr. Trump's lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Michael Cohen. Further, the Justice Department had already put in place a review team. The issue is not of attorney-client privileges, but of top secret national security documents having been possibly handled by persons without proper authorisation or, worse, having been seen by people, including foreigners, trooping in and out of Mar-a-Lago. The responsible folks associated with the Trump administration are watching the developments with unease, unlike the political hacks who are waiting to extract mileage from these events, for the midterms of 2022 or 2024.

When the hanging chads of Florida worked in favour of George W. Bush in 2000, it was reported that Democratic staffers in the White House were so upset that they left messages disparaging Mr. Bush on signs and in telephone voice mail and knocked keys out of computers, especially the 'W'. In *Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America*, Maggie Haberman wrote that during Mr. Trump's last days as President, toilets in the White House were clogged with papers and torn notes. Mr. Trump called the claims "fake", "categorically untrue" and "simply made up".

What the revelations mean

Revelations of the bizarre happenings during the Trump presidency are unlikely to end soon. The former President apparently used to take "boxes" from Mar-a-Lago whenever he travelled. Some give him the benefit of doubt. They say he wanted to "show off", which seems very much in line with his character. But others, such as Mr. Cohen, are not willing to be so generous. Mr. Cohen says Mr. Trump may have already given away top-secret information while travelling around the world and has posited that he would try to use the classified information to "ensure that he doesn't spend the rest of his natural life behind bars charged with treason." Either way the institution of the presidency in the U.S. has been harmed to an extent that few would have imagined.

Sridhar Krishnaswami was a former senior journalist based in Washington for 14 years and covering North America and the United Nations. Views are personal

STATE OF PLAY

A BJP-TRS joust over liberation

Each party in Telangana is trying to outdo the other in celebrating Hyderabad Liberation Day

M RAJEEV

The State and Central governments seem to be in combative mood to officially observe Hyderabad Liberation Day on September 17 this year. This is the first time that the day is being celebrated officially by both the governments.

The demand for celebrating Liberation Day has been in the air for almost seven decades, but did not fructify as political parties remained indecisive about it for various reasons. Interestingly, the event is celebrated in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region in Karnataka and the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, which formed part of the erstwhile princely State, but not in Hyderabad.

A resolution

The conundrum in the State is now heading towards a resolution with Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announcing that there will be celebrations for three days to mark the commencement of the 75th year of the State's liberation and integration into the Indian union. The TRS government is observing the day as Telangana National Integration Day and the celebrations are likely to be held all over the State. The celebrations will include the hoisting of the national flag at the State, district and mandal levels with the Chief Minister hoisting the tri-colour at Public Gardens in the heart of the city, mass rallies across the State, and a cultural programme on September 18.

The TRS was forced to take this decision after the BJP-led Central government announced that it will hold year-long celebrations, with Home Minister Amit Shah as chief guest at the inaugural event on September 17 in Hyderabad. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra inviting them to attend the inaugural programme. The BJP is hopeful that the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra will participate in the event. The BJP's letters form part of the party's efforts to expand its base in Telangana, where it is sensing a significant rise in its following.

Not to be left behind, the Congress too has announced its intentions to celebrate the milestone for a year. The party said it was necessary that the sacrifices made by people in fighting against Nizam rule be explained so that younger generations are made aware of them.

Meanwhile, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi addressed letters to the Chief Minister as well as the Union Home Minister requesting Liberation Day to be called National Integration Day as the nationalist movement saw the people of these territories (erstwhile princely States) as an integral part of independent India.

Rare unity

While each party is trying to outdo the other, what stands out is the fact that the TRS government is being forced to toe the BJP line and announce a programme of its own. There has been a war of words between the TRS and the BJP over the official celebration of Liberation Day. The BJP has frequently put the TRS government on the mat for not celebrating the day fearing repercussions from its ally, the AIMIM. The party has said Mr. Rao promised official celebrations of the historic occasion while leading the separate statehood movement, but ignored it after the TRS assumed power. The issue reached a flash point when the BJP leadership announcing its resolve to organise celebrations. The TRS then scrambled to take some decision in this regard, political observers say.

Political overtones notwithstanding, the diamond jubilee of Hyderabad liberation/integration resulted in a rare political consensus among political parties. It has to be seen whether these parties will now work for evolving similar unity on issues of immediate importance.

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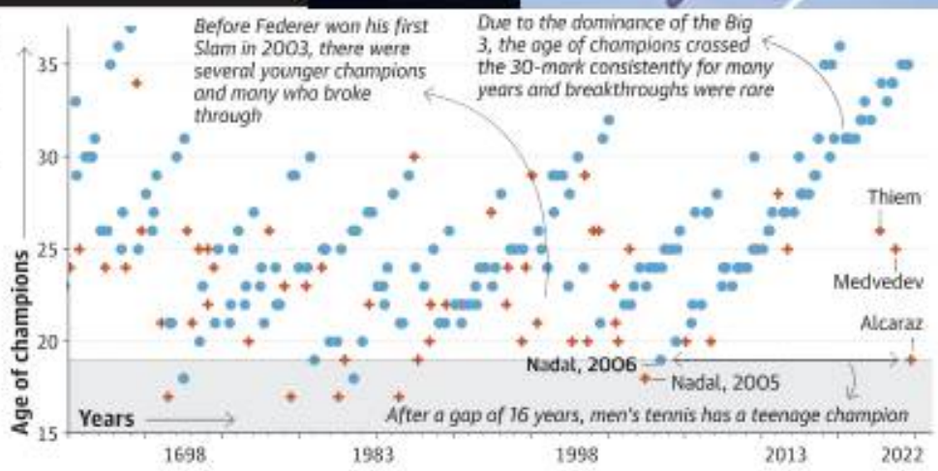
DATA POINT

Alcaraz - flash in the pan or will he pan out longer?

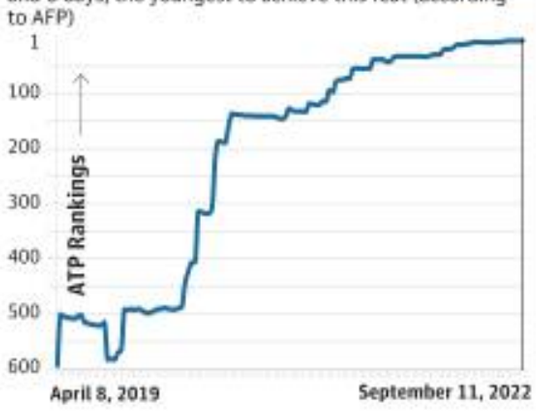
Carlos Alcaraz, the 19-year-old Spaniard, became the first male teenager to win a Grand Slam in 16 years, after fellow countryman Rafael Nadal achieved this feat in 2006. On the same day he won the Grand Slam, Alcaraz also became the No.1 player in the world, the youngest-ever male to reach this position. For about two decades now, men's tennis has been dominated by a triumvirate— Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Since 2003, the Big 3 have won 80% of all Grand Slams. However, in recent years, they have been competing in increasingly fewer games because of various reasons such as injuries, age and vaccine mandates. Other Slam champions — Dominic Thiem and Daniil Medvedev — have not been able to convert their starts into streaks. With the old guard slowly disappearing and new stars failing to shine, young Carlos is set for a long run. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

A young star is born

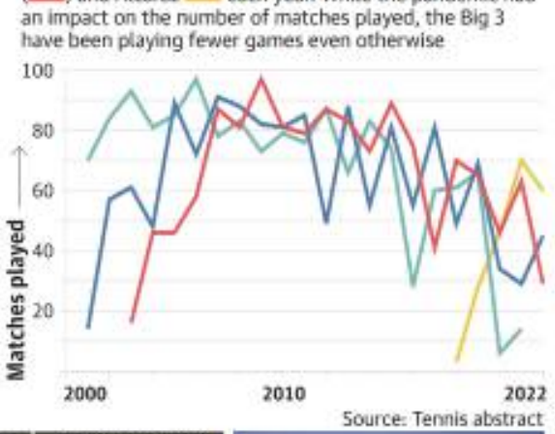
The chart shows the age of male Grand Slam champions in the Open Era. The sign + indicates a breakthrough win (when a player wins their first Major), which has become a rarity in the last two decades



Numero Uno | At the end of the U.S. open on Sunday, Carlos became the No.1 tennis player at 19 years 4 months and 6 days, the youngest to achieve this feat (according to AFP)



Waning legends | The graph shows the number of matches played by Nadal, Federer, Djokovic and Alcaraz each year. While the pandemic had an impact on the number of matches played, the Big 3 have been playing fewer games even otherwise



Source: Tennis abstract

Recent stars | The table shows Grand Slam results of two recent champions other than the Big 3. After winning the titles, Thiem and Medvedev have not converted them into a streak. R-Round; QF-Quarter-finals; SF-Semi-finals; F-Finals; W-Tournament wins

	Dominic Thiem			Daniil Medvedev		
Opens	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Australian	F	4R	A	4R	F	F
French	QF	1R	1R	1R	QF	4R
Wimbledon	NH*	A	A	NH*	4R	A^
US	W	A	1R	SF	W	4R

*NH= Not held; A= Absent ^Banned from competing

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 13, 1972

Bhutto anxious for Pak unity

Rawalpindi, Sept. 12: President Z.A. Bhutto has summoned the Baluchistan Governor and senior member of the Opposition National Awami Party, Mir Ghaus Naksh Bizenjo, for urgent talks as the Government press stepped up its denunciation of an alleged Opposition plot to break up Pakistan into a confederation of semi-independent States. At the same time an official spokesman in Lahore has called on all parties to forget their differences and close their ranks to defend the unity of the nation "at a crucial hour" of its history. Government papers have for the past few days been reporting that five Opposition leaders in London drafted proposals for a confederal constitution which would pave the way for association with Bangladesh and other countries of the area at a later stage. The five men: National Awami Party leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Chief Minister of Baluchistan Ataullah Khan Mengal, Baluchistan Finance Minister Ahmad Nawaz Khan Bugti and the owners of the influential "Dawn" newspaper, Yusuf and Mahmud Aroon, were alleged to have contacted Bangladesh Premier Mujibur Rehman who has been under medical treatment in London and Geneva. The Government spokesman in a statement yesterday said President Bhutto had noted the serious public concern over reports from London in the national press and wanted immediate consultation with Mr. Bizenjo.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 13, 1922

Bengal administration

The Annual Administration Report of Bengal for 1919 deals with many interesting subjects. Referring to the non-co-operation movement, the report says that in Bengal it began in February with a conference held by the Bengal Khilafat Committee. Two hartals were declared but both were failures. As there were considerable divergences of opinion of various centres as to the policy of non-co-operation early in September, a special meeting of the Congress was held in Calcutta where the principal plank was non-co-operation. Bengal extremist leaders were mostly in favour of a modification of Mr. Gandhi's non-co-operation resolution but they were out-voted by a little more than two to one and the resolution was carried. The movement has however gathered very little strength.

FROM PAGE ONE

Hindu women's suit maintainable, says court

As for the acquisition of a mosque by the State, the court held that irrespective of the immunity mosques have from State acquisition in Islamic countries, its status and immunity from acquisition in the "secular ethos of India under the Constitution is the same and equal to that of places of worship of other religions".

"Obviously, The acquisition of any religious place is to be made only in unusual and extraordinary situations for a larger national purpose, keeping in view that such acquisition should not result in extinction of the right to practise the religion, if the significance of that place be such. Subject to this condition, the power of acquisition is available for a mosque like any other place of worship of any religion. The right to worship is not at any and every place, so long as it can be practised effectively, unless the right to worship at a particular place is itself an integral part of that right," Mr. Vishvesha held.

As for the Masjid panel's argument that the Waqf Tribunal had jurisdiction in this matter over civil courts because the property in question was registered as a waqf property, the court shot it down saying that the decrees sought in the suit are not covered under the powers of the tribunal as outlined under Sections 33, 35, 47, 48, 51, 54, 61, 64, 67, 72 & 73 of the Waqf Act, thus bringing it under the purview of civil courts.

Revenue records

The Masjid panel had submitted various documents pertaining to the entries in the revenue records to show that the property in question was registered as that of the waqf, but the court held, "merely on the basis of entries in revenue record, no presumption of title can be drawn regarding a mosque or a temple".

The court ruled that the U.P. Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act of 1983 does not specifically bar "a suit claiming right to worship idols installed in the endowment within the premises of the temple, or outside". The district court has called for written statements from all parties to suit and set September 22 as the date for when it is expected to frame the issues along which the suit will be tried.

BJP leaders, Hindu groups hail Gyanvapi order

SC judgment in Babri Masjid case ignored, says Muslim side; Owaisi says the verdict will have a 'destabilising effect'

ISHITA MISHRA
MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

BJP leaders in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country on Monday welcomed the decision of the Varanasi district court in the Gyanvapi dispute.

The court rejected a plea by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, questioning the maintainability of a petition seeking permission for worshipping Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi Masjid.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said there was a "wave of happiness" across the State. He said the opposite party can challenge the order in the High Court. "It is their right, but we will respect the verdict and strengthen the law and order situation in the State," he added.

The lone Muslim face in the State Cabinet, Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari said everyone should respect the verdict. "A court listens to all sides and only then comes to a conclusion. We should respect it," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya tweeted, "I welcome the decision of the court in Maa Shringar Gauri Mandir case, everyone should respect the decision."

'Destabilising effect'

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the order would have a "destabilising effect" and pave the way for more such cases.

"I hope the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee will appeal against this order. I believe that after this order, the purpose of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, will fail," he said.

"A destabilising effect will start after this. We're going on the same path as that of the Babri Masjid issue. When the judgement on Babri Masjid was given, I warned everyone that this will create problems in the country as this judgment was given on basis of faith," he added.

On alert: Security personnel deployed near the Kashi Vishwanath temple ahead of the court ruling in the Gyanvapi case in Varanasi on Monday. •PTI

Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, Muslim cleric and senior member of the All India Muslim Personal Law board (AIMPLB), said the legal team of the Muslim side would read the full judgment and decide the further course of action.

"While pronouncing the final judgment in the Babri mosque case, the Supreme Court had termed the Places of Worship Act as an important part of the judgment. We had hopes that temple-mosque issues will stop coming to courts but what has happened has raised a question for legal experts that on what grounds can the other courts ignore what the Supreme Court has said," he said.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan were among the BJP leaders from across the country who took to social media to hail the judgment.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) too welcomed the decision and said it should be accepted with grace and calmness and should not be treated as a "matter of victory or defeat".

"The Varanasi court has now decided that the Varanasi suit is not injuncted by the Places of Worship Act. The application of the other party has been dismissed. The first hurdle has been crossed. Now the court will examine the matter on its own merits. We do hope and look forward to a victory for the law, the justice and the truth is with us," Alok Kumar, international working president of VHP, said.

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy said "special temples have to be vacated and rebuilt because they were deliberately demolished by the Aurangzeb & Muhammad Ghori".

The Uttar Pradesh police maintained strict vigil across the State on Monday and conducted flag marches in sensitive places such as Ayodhya and Varanasi. After the ruling, many Hindu groups celebrated the decision by bursting crackers and distributing sweets in places like Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.

Inflation resurges to 7% as food prices mount

Inflation measured by the Consumer Food Price Index surged to 7.6% in rural India and 7.55% in urban parts of the country, from around 6.7% in July.

Price rise in cereals rose further from 6.9% in July to 9.6% in August, while vegetables inflation which had eased to a still-high level of 10.9% in July reversed trend to record a 13.23% uptick in August.

Mr. Srivastava said domestic causes, especially the uneven monsoon and its adverse impact on food prices, had flared up inflation.

With kharif crop sowing "increasingly unlikely" to touch last year's levels, food inflation could remain a problem even though healthy reservoir levels augur well for timely rabi sowing, said Ms. Nayar.

A rebound in demand for services also lifted miscellaneous and housing inflation, and is likely to persist, she said, reckoning retail inflation could rise further to 7.1% in September.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has estimated a 7.1% inflation rate for the July to September quarter.

Ten of 22 major States recorded inflation over 7%, with West Bengal recording the highest price rise at 8.94% in August.

Gujarat's inflation rate also shot past the 8% mark at 8.22% in August from 7.85% in July, while Telangana's price rise dropped marginally from 8.58% in July to 8.11% in August.

'Burden on justifying hijab ban rests on State'

State appeasing obstructionists: lawyer

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Karnataka has to first prove how forbidding hijab among students affects the sovereignty and integrity of India, its security or friendly relations with foreign states or even public order, decency or morality, the Sharia Committee of Women argued against the ban on Muslim girls wearing hijab to school.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia, senior advocate Y.H. Muchhala said the burden of justifying the restraint on wearing hijab rests on the State."Wearing of hijab does not confer any special benefit to the Muslim girls nor does it defeat the purpose of the law. The purpose of uniform is not to erase the markers of individuality. Simply by wearing the prescribed dress code, diverse distinctions that exist amongst students do not evaporate. In multicultural societies, students should be taught to acknowledge, accept and respect diversities in the society," he argued.

The State has bent over backwards to appease "obstructionists" at the cost of violating the time-tested fundamental rights of the students, he said.

"Every religious minority has the fundamental right to conserve its religio-cultural identity. The girl students are adherents of Islam and in their individual capacities, they have a right to display/express their religio-cultural manifestations by wearing hijab," Mr. Muchhala submitted.

The ability of an individual to protect a zone of privacy enables the realisation of the full value of life and liberty, he noted. The lawyer argued that the denial of the right to education of Muslim girls across India would have serious ramifications.

You cannot unite nation with hatred: RSS to Cong.

There is growing support for 'Hindutva' in society: Vaidya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Monday said the Congress was trying to "connect people with hatred".

Speaking during the culmination of the three-day *Akhil Bharatiya Samanvay Baithak* in Raipur, RSS joint secretary Manmohan Vaidya said, "Bharat Jodo Yatra is a good thing but question is, how are they trying to unite the nation? With love or by spreading hatred?"

He added that there was growing support for 'Hindutva' in society and "no one can unite the country with hatred and contempt for RSS".

"Your *Baap-Dade* (forefathers) did the same, banned us twice for no fault of our own, but we continue to grow," he added.

The Congress on Monday tweeted a picture of a burning pair of khaki shorts – a part of the RSS uniform earlier – saying, "To free the country from shackles of hate and undo the damage done by BJP-RSS. Step by step, we will reach our goal." The post was referring to its Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The image posted by the Congress on Twitter.

Mr. Vaidya pointed out that Congress had failed to realise that the RSS had changed its uniform years ago and "they still criticise the *ganvesh* (uniform)".

At the *Samanvay Baithak* that started in Raipur on September 10 and was attended by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale and BJP president J.P. Nadda, among others, the organisation pitched for the use of Indian languages in courts so that everyone could read and understand the decisions of courts.

Educational institutions should have courses on Hinduism, RSS office-bearers said.

Talking about the expansion of the RSS, Mr. Vaidya said that nearly 90,000 people had expressed interest in joining the RSS through the organisation's website in the first eight months of 2022.

"We are getting huge response from the youth of the country who are willing to know RSS and work with it," he added.

CPI(M) targets Congress on Bharat Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Monday criticised the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying spending 18 days in Left-ruled Kerala and just two in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh was a "strange way to fight BJP-RSS".

The remark prompted a strong response from the Congress which derided the Left as the "A team" of the BJP in the southern State.

The CPI(M) tweeted a caricature of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with text wondering if it was a "Bharat Jodo" or "Seat Jodo" campaign. "18 days in Kerala...2 days in U.P. Strange way to fight BJP-RSS," read the text.

Jairam Ramesh, Congress general secretary, said, "Do your homework better on how and why yatra was planned the way it is. And silly criticism from a party that is the A team of BJP in the land of Mundu-Modi."

Eastern borders stable, says Commander Kalita

The dynamics of the Eastern Command and Northern Command are totally different, he said, adding, "The terrain, size of area of operations, operational dynamics, and objective of operations, are all varied in a peculiar way."

Stating that, till now, the Armed Forces had maintained cordial relations with the PLA at the functional level of ground Commander and there have been hardly any friction areas in the recent past, he said India and China also have well-instituted mechanisms in place, such as formal interactions and Border Personnel Meetings to resolve differences of opinions.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the Army has significantly upgraded its defences and deployed offensive fire power to offset the major modernisation drive by China.

On infrastructure development, the Commander said it was progressing at an "expeditious pace". "Along with organisations like the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation, and the Border Roads Organisation, the Army's forward formations are also making major strides in achieving last mile connectivity and access to remote areas," he said, elaborating, " Major push to improve aviation infra [infrastructure] in the area has resulted in the construction of numerous helipads in inaccessible valleys, thereby enhancing connectivity."

Militant killed in Shopian, say J&K police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

An unidentified militant was killed and a security personnel sustained injuries in an encounter in Shopian district of south Kashmir on Monday, the police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Heff Shirmal area of the district following information about the presence of militants there, a police official said. He said the ultras opened fire on the security forces who retaliated, triggering an encounter.

"The operation is in progress," the police said.

(With PTI inputs)

SC Collegium approves names for appointments in three High Courts

Eight names recommended for the Bombay High Court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U.U. Lalit has recommended eight names for appointment to the Bombay High Court. Six of them are judicial officers and two are advocates.

U.U. Lalit

The judicial officers are Sanjay Anandrao Deshmukh, Yanshivraj Gopichand Khobragade, Mahendra Wadhumal Chandwani (who is the present Registrar-General of the High Court), Abhay Sopanrao Waghwase, Ravindra Madhusudan Joshi and Vrushali @Shubhangi Vijay Joshi.

The two lawyers are Santosh Govindrao Chapalgaonkar and Milind Manohar Sathaye.

If the government agrees with the Collegium, the judicial strength in the Bombay High Court will rise to 68 out of a total sanctioned strength of 94 judges.

The Collegium has also approved the proposal for the appointment of Karnataka High Court additional judges, Justices Mohammed Ghouse Shukure Kamal, Rajendra Badamikar and Khazi Jayabunnisa Mohiuddin as permanent judges of the court.

Similarly, nine judicial officers have been approved for elevation to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

They are Gurbir Singh, Deepak Gupta, Amarjit Bhatti, Ritu Tagore, Manisha Batra, Harpreet Kaur Jeewan, Sukhvinder Kaur, Sanjiv Berry and Vikram Aggarwal.

The names were finalised at the Collegium meetings happened on September 7 and 12.

Delhi HC stays Lokpal case against Shibu Soren

Next hearing on December 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed the proceedings initiated by the Lokpal against Jharkhand Mukti Morcha patriarch Shibu Soren on the basis of a complaint of "corruption" by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against the former Jharkhand Chief Minister.

Shibu Soren

Justice Yashwant Varma noted that the 75-year-old politician's objection with respect to the maintainability of the proceedings were not dealt with by the anti-corruption authority.

"Till the next date of listing, there shall be a stay on further proceedings pending before the Lokayukta. The (petitioner's) challenge to assumption of jurisdiction by respondent no 1 (Lokpal of India) has neither been answered nor dealt with (by the authority)," the judge said.

The matter would be heard next on December 14.

'Congress a crucial pillar of Opposition unity'

While Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has named Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, her Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren, and former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav as potential allies of the Trinamool, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Sunday pitched NCP supremo Sharad Pawar as someone who could facilitate Opposition unity.

Noting that the Bharat Jodo Yatra had led allies of both the BJP and the Congress to issue statements, Mr. Ramesh asserted that the *yatra* seeks to strengthen the Congress first. "If it results in Opposition unity, it is good and we welcome it. But our priority is to strengthen the party organisation, to make it more effective," he said.

Responding to digs by BJP leaders, including Amit Shah, directed at Rahul Gandhi for wearing imported T-shirts, Mr. Ramesh said he would not want to comment on "T-shirts, underwear and vests".

Two AAP MLAs among 17 convicted for rioting

They attacked policemen in 2015

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court recently convicted AAP MLAs Akhilesh Pati Tripathi and Sanjeev Jha, and 15 others for being part of a mob that attacked policemen at the Burari police station in north Delhi in 2015.

The Rouse Avenue Court said the legislators played a major role in provoking and instigating the crowd.

The conviction orders were issued by additional chief metropolitan magistrate Vaibhav Mehta. Ten other accused were acquitted in the case.

The matter pertains to the events of February 2, 2015, when the accused barged inside the police station and assaulted policemen with an objective of assault, rioting and damaging public property.

Farmer outfits stage protest across Punjab

They raise issues of loan waiver, pollution and depleting groundwater in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The issue of farm loan waiver among other demands is yet again in the spotlight. Farmer outfits across Punjab, led by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Smiti, an outfit that was at the forefront of the year-long agitation against farm laws, on Monday staged protests outside the residences of Ministers and MLAs of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

Sarvan Singh Pandher, general secretary of the Punjab unit of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee, said farmers staged sit-ins in 31 places across 16 districts.

"Our key demands include one-time farm loan waiver, urgent steps for saving fast depleting groundwater water and pollution in rivers and policy ensuring remunerative prices for all crops" Mr. Pandher said.

"The government should work on a policy to make farming profitable, for which announcing and purchasing crops at MSP is the first important step that needs to be taken by the government. Farmers' suicides across the State are only rising, the government should waive all outstanding loans whether private or government for farmers and labourers," he said.

A recent study surrounding farmers' suicide in Punjab by the Ludhiana-based Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) revealed that in six districts of the State as many as 9,291 farmers had died by suicide in 2000-2018. Mr. Pandher alleged that the government was not giving any attention to solving real issues of the State.

"The Punjab government should make a law that guarantees MSP. Also, immediate compensation and treatment should be arranged for the owners, whose animals have died due to lumpy skin disease."

India raises Sri Lankan Tamil issue in UN

It voices concern over lack of 'measurable progress' on Colombo's commitments of a political solution

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

India on Monday voiced concern over the "lack of measurable progress" in Sri Lanka's promised political solution to the long-pending Tamil national question, while making an unusual reference to the crisis-hit island nation's "debt-driven" economy in the context of its current crisis.

In its statement at the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, India said it has "always believed in the responsibility of states for promotion and protection of human rights and constructive international dialogue and cooperation" guided by the UN Charter. "In this regard, the Indian delegation notes with concern the lack of measurable progress by Government of Sri Lanka on their commitments of a political solution to the ethnic issue – through full implementation of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, delegation of powers to Provincial Councils and holding of Provincial Council elections at the earliest," India said. The terms of Sri Lanka's nine provincial councils expired about three years ago, and they have remained defunct since.

India's statement comes ahead of a resolution on Sri Lanka that will likely face a vote at the Council. Since 2009, India has voted thrice in favour of the UN resolution on Sri Lanka – two were critical – and abstained twice, in 2014 and 2021. Irrespective of its vote, India has consistently underscored the need for a political settlement "within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, ensuring justice, peace, equality and dignity for the Tamils of Sri Lanka," as it reiterated on Monday as well.

Over 13 years since the end of Sri Lanka's civil war, in which tens of thousands of civilians were killed and disappeared, survivors continue demanding justice and accountability for war-time crimes. In the post-war years, Sri Lanka's human rights defenders have frequently flagged concerns over persisting militarisation, especially in the Tamil-majority north and east; repression, and the shrinking space for dissent.

India made the statement at the 51 session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. • TWITTER/@UNGENEVA

In her latest report on Sri Lanka, the UN Human Rights chief said "embedded impunity for past and present human rights abuses, economic crimes and corruption" were among the "underlying factors" that led to the country's "devastating" economic crisis.

India has extended nearly $4 billion crucial assistance to Sri Lanka this year but has not made any public remark on the island's economic choices so far. However, at the 'Interactive Dialogue' segment of the ongoing Council session, India said Sri Lanka's current economic crisis "demonstrated the limitations of debt driven economy and the impact it has on the standard of living". China, Japan, and India are Sri Lanka's three main bilateral creditors, while the island nation owes the biggest chunk of its foreign debt to International Sovereign Bond holders.

"It is in Sri Lanka's best interests to build capacity of its citizens and work towards their empowerment, for which devolution of power to the grass roots level is a pre-requisite," the Indian delegation said, apparently connecting the long-pending promise of power devolution to citizens' empowerment in the context of the economic recovery. "In this connection, operationalisation of Provincial Councils through early conduct of elections will enable all citizens of Sri Lanka to achieve their aspirations for a prosperous future. We therefore urge Sri Lanka to take immediate and credible action in this regard," the delegation said.

Making a statement at the session, China said it "firmly supported" Sri Lanka to "safeguard its sovereignty and independence", maintain social stability and achieve economic recovery.

SC rejects petition linking pornography to sex crimes

Issue of such a link is specific to individual cases, court says

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court did not entertain a plea advocating a link between watching Internet porn and sex crimes, including child abuse.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit and S. Ravindra Bhat on Monday said child sex abuse was a crime by itself. Investigation into individual cases by the police would reveal whether or not viewing of pornography had triggered the crime. That aspect would be part of evidence of each individual case. "Seeking a judicial declaration from the Supreme Court that porn on the Internet has led to child sex crimes would be equal to giving a go-ahead to online surveillance," it said.

The court said the government, if necessary, had enough material in its arsenal to ensure that criminal material was not uploaded on the Internet. It may be "unmanageable" for the court to do so.

It said police probe would reveal if porn viewing had triggered the crime or not.

"So your final goal is that such material should not be uploaded... Can a court intervene? What you are advocating may be surveillance and collection of data..." the Bench addressed senior advocate Nalin Kohli, who is the petitioner-in-person.

The court made it clear that it was worried where such surveillance of the Internet, if allowed, "may lead to". "This is a tiger if it gets loose, problem is at what point we control it... The issue of the link between viewing pornography and crime is individual case specific," Chief Justice Lalit observed.

Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, on the Bench, referred to how the U.S. Supreme Court had in the 1990s dealt with a question of banning the Internet to a certain class in order not to give them access to porn. "Justice Kennedy said we cannot set the house on fire to roast the pig," Justice Bhat observed.

Mr. Kohli, who withdrew the petition, had sought a direction to the Bureau of Police Research and Development to study the link between free access to Internet pornography and child sexual abuse cases as well as rape.

IN BRIEF

'India can be permanent security council member'

RIYADH

India has a powerful case to be a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and it must adapt to the evolving global conditions, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. PTI

Relative of Trinamool leader appears before ED

KOLKATA

Maneka Gambhir, sister-in-law of Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the coal pilferage scam.

Programme launched for Ayurveda Day 2022

NEW DELHI

All India Institute of Ayurveda, under the Ministry of Ayush, on Monday launched the programme for Ayurveda Day. The theme for the celebration is *Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda*. It will be celebrated on October 23.

CBI court sentences IRS officer to 6-year jail term

LUCKNOW

A Special CBI court in Lucknow on Monday sentenced a Indian Revenue Service officer to six years imprisonment after holding him guilty for demanding and accepting bribe for issuing 'No Dues Certificate'.

Naga delegation meets Shah, pushes for revival of talks

Discussions have been stalled after exclusion of 3 key issues

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A Naga delegation led by Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday to push for revival of talks between the Centre's envoy and Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM).

The talks broke down in June after the Centre's envoy -A.K. Mishra - excluded three political points, earlier agreed to by former Naga interlocutor R.N. Ravi, from the final proposal submitted to the NSCN-IM, said T.R. Zeliang, chairman, United Democratic Alliance (UDA), Nagaland who was present in Monday's meeting.

Amit Shah

Excluded points

The three "excluded points" are inclusion of *Yehzabo* (Naga constitution) into the Indian constitution, integration of Naga-dominated areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur into the existing State of Nagaland and creation of regional autonomous territory council for Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

A Nagaland government-led consultative committee which includes Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, and Mr. Zeliang in a meeting in March had adopted a resolution that the Naga peace talks conclude early and be transparent.

"The Home Minister was apprised about the trust deficit between NSCN-IM and Mr. Mishra. After Mr. Mishra excluded the three points from the final proposal, NSCN-IM walked away from the talks. The points excluded by the envoy were agreed to by the former interlocutor R.N. Ravi. This is what the IM [Isak-Muivah faction] is unhappy about," Mr. Zeliang told *The Hindu*.

He added that Mr. Shah gave them a patient hearing and the message will now be conveyed to NSCN-IM. The delegation met Mr. Mishra on September 9. "We were here to meet the Prime Minister, but he directed us to meet the Home Minister. The NSCN-IM said there was no point of discussion after the three political points were excluded from the final 'Competency'. It is silent on *Yehzabo*. Both the interlocutors have agreed on a flag for the Nagas," Mr. Zeliang said.

Mr. Mishra, former Special Director with the Intelligence Bureau, was appointed as an adviser in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2020 to continue the Naga talks after NSCN-IM refused to carry on the negotiations with Mr. Ravi.

The Centre is engaged in discussions with the NSCN-IM and seven Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The NSCN-IM, a key player in Naga peace talks, has been demanding a separate Constitution and a flag for the Nagas and creation of 'Greater Nagaland' or 'Nagalim' by integrating Naga-dominated areas in neighbouring Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh to unite 1.2 million Nagas.

"The final agreement depends entirely on the two negotiating parties. We were here to apprise the Centre about the issues blocking the talks," Mr. Zeliang said.

BJP failed Kashmiri Pandits: Mehbooba

PDP president accuses the party of weaponising the community's suffering

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said the Jammu and Kashmir administration led by Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha had failed to instil a sense of security among the migrant Kashmiri Pandit community.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its administration is weaponising the suffering of the community to garner support for its political objectives but their (migrant Kashmiri Pandits) issues and grievances are being ignored," Ms. Mufti said. The former Chief Minister claimed that the community was facing the worst time after migration in the past few years. "The administration has miserably failed to instil a sense of security among the migrant community," she said.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti speaking to media, in Jammu on Monday. • PTI

The issues of Kashmiri migrants need a compassionate and humanitarian approach, she said, adding, "Instead, an arm-twisting approach is being adopted to muzzle their voice." Meanwhile, corruption has touched all new heights, she claimed. "Competent and honest officers are pushed to walls to ensure that the dictates from party headquarters of BJP are followed without any query or justification," she alleged.

PM has enhanced India's honour as a global leader, says Chouhan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a global leader who had ensured that the world cannot function without India.

"Today, wherever you go in the world, Modi*ji* has enhanced India's honour, respect and pride to such a level that the world cannot function without India today. Mr. Modi isn't just India's leader, he is a global leader," said Mr. Chouhan at a seminar in Indore on the recently released book *Modi@20: Dreams Meeting Delivery*. Mr. Chouhan was comparing India's global image under Mr. Modi with that under Dr. Manmohan Singh of the Congress.

Reacting to the comment, the Congress said that the Chief Minister was making such a statement because there was a buzz around the leadership change in the State and Mr. Chouhan wanted to keep the top leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in good humour.

"The buzz is CM Shivraj*ji*'s chair is feeling the tremors of an earthquake. The intensity of the earthquake is 5.6, while the epicentre of the earthquake is said to be the PM residence in Delhi. It is precisely why the CM is telling the PM that without PM Modi the world can't move," tweeted Sangeeta Sharma, vice-president, Media Department of the Congress's State. unit.

'Ayodhya Ram temple to cost ₹1,800 crore'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AYODHYA

An estimated cost of ₹1,800 crore will be incurred to build the Ram temple in Ayodhya, officials of the trust responsible for the construction of the structure said on Sunday.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, formed on the Supreme Court's orders for the construction of the temple, approved its rules and manual after a marathon meeting in Ayodhya.

Eight African cheetahs to land in Jaipur on Friday

They will be released on PM's birthday at Kuno National Park

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Later this week, eight cheetahs from Namibia will depart from the capital Windhoek in a chartered flight and land in Jaipur on Friday. From here they will be transported in a helicopter and, after a 40-minute journey to the Kuno National Park (KNP) will be released on September 17 into a dedicated, 'quarantine' enclosure under the watch of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials from the Union Environment Ministry said on Monday.

September 17 is Mr. Modi's birthday and the release of the cheetahs are timed to mark the celebrations, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Chauhan, said last month.

The cheetahs will initially be in quarantine enclosures for about a month and then moved to 6-square kilometre, 'predator-proof,' holding facilities that will also host live prey. It will be a few months before the cheetahs are released into the wild. All the animals will be radio collared and their movements tracked via GPS. Based on current prey estimates, the Kuno National Park can support up to 20 cheetahs and with restoration, protection and management this number can go up to 40 individuals, officials estimate.

Big journey: An India-bound African Cheetah undergoing health exam by an international team of experts. • FILE PHOTO

Animals present in Kuno that can be potential prey include chital, sambar, nilgai, wild pig, chowsingha, langur, peafowl, hare and feral cattle. Close to 748 square km of forest landscape is available to the cheetahs in the park. This is part of the plan to help the animals acclimatise to Indian conditions. However, a local obstacle to the cheetah was that the current enclosures in Kuno-Palpur had five leopards all of whom needed to be relocated as it was inadvisable to have the two species coexist during the cheetah's acclimatisation.

Over time, says the action plan by the Centre, cheetah and leopard populations will be able to coexist.

India has also finalised an agreement with South Africa to source the animals but this is yet to be signed.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact NO. 96461-16773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-1318/PO-C&S

Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for procurement of flat twin core LT PVC Cable i.e.2Cx6 sqmm-21000 Km and 2Cx10 sqmm-4000 Km. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 13.09.2022 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-347/22 76155/12/1101/2021/16975

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद्
सर्वपल्ली डॉ0 राधाकृष्णन शिक्षा संकुल, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, जयपुर
फोन: 0141-2700366, E-Mail :- rajsa_acctt@yahoo.co.in
क्रमांक: RCScE/Media/P R Agency /2022-23/3829 दिनांक : 09/09/2022
शुद्धिपत्र 18/2022-23
इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से डिजिटल आउटरीच और सामुदायिक जुड़ाव के लिए एजेंसी/संगठन के चयन के उपयोग हेतु दिनांक 12.09.2022 को 6:00 P.M. तक ई-बोली आमंत्रित की गई थी, आवश्यक संशोधन करते हुए बोली की अन्तिम दिनांक 19.09.2022 को सायं 6:00 बजे तक बढ़ायी जाती है। संशोधन की विस्तृत जानकारी www.sppp.raj.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा विभागीय पोर्टल www.rajsmsa.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। UBN: RSE22238LOB01062
राज्य परियोजना निदेशक

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ, PIN:-757107
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 11 /22-23 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i.	Name of Work	:	"Construction of Nuagaon Minor from RD 3802m to RD 9800m, Dalki Sub-Minor, Singalamundali Sub-Minor, balance works of Tikarbati Sub-Minor, Tikargadia Sub-Minor & Nuagaon Minor canal system including all structures, cement concrete lining, trough wall and inspection road under Subarnarekha Irrigation Project."
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	:	Rs.2359.83 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion	:	24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Months
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	19.09.2022 at 10.00 AM
v.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	:	12.10.2022 up to 5.00 PM
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
A-498: OPR-32429/11/0013/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ, PIN:-757107
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 07 /22-23 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i.	Name of Work	:	" Construction of Black Topping Service Road from RD 37.500 KM to RD 82.646 KM of Jambhira Left Main Canal "
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	:	Rs.2723.50 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion	:	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	14.09.2022 at 10.00 AM
v.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	:	10.10.2022 up to 5.00 PM
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
A-497: OPR-32429/11/0013/2223

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Tender Call Notice No. : H.O./P&C/EST-E-1997/03/2022 23125 Dated : 09.09.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement
Name of the Work :- Construction of RCC Storm Water drain in EMC Park at Infovalley, Khurda for 4.65 Km, Phase-I
Estimated Cost :- Rs.756.00 lakhs (apprx.)
Period of Completion : 05 (Five) Calendar Months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id No. PC/EST/E-59/2022-23	16.00 Hours of 17.09.2022	17.00 Hours of 10.10.2022

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1781 OPR-14003/11/0140/2223

BDS course to be revamped with semester-based system

Course duration to increase by six months; at least 9 elective subjects mandatory

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

For the first time in 74 years, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) curriculum is all set for an overhaul.

The decision by the Dental Council of India, which falls under the Union Health Ministry, is aimed at bringing the undergraduate course on a par with global standards, while making it more job-oriented and up to date.

At present the BDS is a five-year course, which comprises four-year academics and one year of internship.

The proposed credit-based curriculum will be a five-and-a-half-year course, which consists of four-and-a-half years of academics and one year of rotational internship.

The exam pattern will shift from yearly to semester system where the student has the option to pick from the 50 to 60 elective subjects offered alongside.

Changing pattern: The new curriculum is likely to be introduced in the next academic year. •K. MURALI KUMAR

The elective subjects include Ayurveda/ Homeopathy/ Unani/ Siddha Medicine dentistry, yogic sciences and dental medicine, implantology, laser dentistry, sports dentistry, 3D planning in orthodontics, among others. "Students should complete at least nine electives across all listed categories to graduate. Each elective shall carry two credits," says the proposed draft.

"Maintaining standards of a BDS undergraduate on a par with or exceeding the changing global standards, improving the quality of dental care across the nation, educating dentists about dynamic ethical problems – are among the hallmarks of the proposed change," said Anil Kumar Chandna, executive member, the Dental Council of India. According to the proposed draft, the choice-based credit system will encourage students to diversify their knowledge with electives and continuing education credits.

The proposed curriculum, which could be brought in as early as the next academic year, will have nine semesters plus one year paid compulsory rotatory internship (CRI) in dental colleges, with a minimum of 240 teaching days in each academic year. Apart from the mandatory nine electives, "universities can create additional electives in each category based on the changing needs of society and the feedback of the various stakeholders/academic council. Task sharing/task shifting courses shall be designed to improve employability of graduates in transdisciplinary positions as healthcare workers," states the draft.

States told to implement adoption rules

The instructions come despite concerns over jurisdiction of District Magistrates

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has written to State governments, asking them to immediately implement the revised adoption rules requiring adoption orders to be passed by District Magistrates (DMs) instead of courts with effect from September 1.

The instructions come despite concerns raised over jurisdiction of DMs in civil matters such as inheritance and succession, as well as delays likely to be caused in cases where the court has already passed orders since September 1 or is likely to pass them shortly after having spent several months on the proceedings.

"All the cases pertaining to adoption matters pending before the Courts shall be transferred to the District Magistrates from the date of commencement of the Rules i.e. 01.09.2022," Indevar Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, wrote to Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories on Monday.

Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill last year. •AFP

He urged for "immediate compliance of the same, so that there is no delay in passing the adoption orders."

"The Centre should have clarified what happens to the orders that have been passed between September 1 and September 12, and how should CARA and DMs deal with such cases. Courts were not informed about the amendments and the Centre has also not yet notified Adoption Regulations, 2022 detailing the process to be followed by the DMs," said Sindhu Naik, Member, Karnataka State Council For Child Welfare.

The amendment being contested is an amendment to the rules, and not the principal Act and therefore revising it shouldn't be a difficult task involving Parliament's nod, she pointed out.

"It transfers cases that are currently being heard in the district and civil courts to the DM, which should be challenged. The rules should not apply retrospectively, and should state that only new cases after September 1 should be brought to DMs for seeking adoption orders," she added.

Experts have drawn attention to the concern that when a child turns 18 and his or her inheritance rights are contested before a court, a judicial order is more tenable to secure entitlements.

Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021 last year in order to amend the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), 2015. These authorise District Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act by striking out the word "court".

This was done in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability. The amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016, were notified on September 1 and require all adoption cases to be transferred to the DM with immediate effect.

French Foreign Minister set to visit India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Catherine Colonna will visit India on September 14 and 15, the French government has announced.

Upon arrival, Ms. Colonna will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and hold talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"In a year that marks the 75th anniversary of Indo-French diplomatic relations, Minister Colonna will highlight France's belief that our trust-based strategic partnership is our best asset to continue boosting our strategic autonomy and uphold a multipolar rules-based world order," declared a statement from the Embassy of France, expressing the country's "full support" to India's upcoming G20 Presidency.

The French Foreign Minister will also meet National Security Adviser Ajit Doval for discussions on "regional and global security issues" and for counter-terror cooperation with India, which is hosting "No Money for Terror" conference later this year.

She will travel to Mumbai on September 15, for a meeting with the Indian business houses that have a presence in France.

Ms. Colonna will address the annual general meeting of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Government sets ball rolling for new offices for all MPs

'MP Chambers' to be connected to new Parliament building

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has started preparations for the construction of offices for all MPs, calling agencies on Monday to apply for the subsurface survey of the proposed site.

The CPWD has proposed constructing multi-storied buildings on the plots where the Transport Bhavan and the Shram Shakti Bhavan are located after demolishing the existing buildings.

The 'MP Chambers', as the project has been named, would be connected with the new Parliament building via an underground passage.

Offices to be constructed on plots where Shram Shakti Bhavan is located.

On Monday, the CPWD issued a notice inviting quotations from agencies to carry out the survey to look for underground utilities at the Shram Shakti Bhavan and the Transport Bhavan, which house offices of the Labour and Transport Ministries, among others. The estimated cost was ₹7.60 lakh.

According to a CPWD official, the 'MP Chambers' project was among the next few under the Central Vista redevelopment plan.

While the revamp of Kartavya Path (formerly known as Rajpath) has been completed recently, the construction of the new Parliament building, the Common Central Secretariat and Vice-President's Enclave is currently under way.

Solar-powered highways soon, says Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government is working on developing electric highways powered by solar energy that will facilitate the charging of heavy duty trucks and buses, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday.

Addressing an event organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Mr. Gadkari reiterated that the government wanted to develop India's public transport system on electricity.

He said the Ministry had conducted route optimisation exercises across major corridors and designed a newer alignment.

Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav to start from September 17

Blood donation drive aims to collect one lakh units of blood

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry is planning to launch a nationwide, mega voluntary blood donation drive, called the *Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav*, on September 17, with an aim to collect one lakh units of blood.

The drive hopes to create a database of donors who can be called upon at times of emergency.

The Ministry has sent a letter to all the States and the Union Territories, stating that the drive would continue till October 1, the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (NVBDD).

It aims at creating a database of donors who can be called upon during an emergency.

"Registrations for blood donation can be done on the Aarogya Setu portal under *Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav* which calls people to donate blood and be a part of Prime Minister's mission for humanity," said a Health Ministry official.

All States and Union Territories have been requested to organise the campaign in local/regional languages.

They have been requested to disseminate information about the drive to all medical colleges, hospitals, blood banks and other stakeholders.

A live dashboard will be operationalised on the e-RaktKosh web portal for tracking the number of blood units donated/collected in each State and Union Territory.

Two panels to probe Meghalaya jailbreak

Mob lynched four of the six escapees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya government has set up two panels to investigate a jailbreak and the subsequent lynching of four of the six fugitives by villagers in the State's West Jaintia Hills district. Stating this on Monday, Meghalaya Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui said 5,000 people battered the four escapees – three undertrial prisoners and a convict – to death on September 11, less than 24 hours after they escaped from the Jowai district jail.

Five Jowai jail officials, including head warden C. Kynjing, have been arrested in connection with the jailbreak, he informed the House.

"A total of five undertrial prisoners and a convict had overpowered the jail staff and injured them before fleeing. A policeman was hospitalised after he was attacked with a sharp weapon," Mr. Rymbui said.

Centre is trying to curb lumpy skin disease: PM

Modi was inaugurating the International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit in Greater Noida

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Inaugurating the International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit in Greater Noida on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Centre has made all efforts to keep a track of the movement of livestock in the wake of the spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD).

Mr. Modi said there has been a loss of livestock in many States due to the disease in the recent past and assured everyone that the Centre and the State Governments are trying their level best to keep a check on it.

"Our scientists have also prepared indigenous vaccine for lumpy skin disease," he said.

He added the movement of animals are being monitored to keep the outbreak under control.

"Be it vaccination of animals or any other modern technology, India is always eager to contribute to the field of dairy while striving to learn from its partner nations. India has acted swiftly on its food safety standards," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister highlighted the centrality of *Pashu Dhan* and milk-related business in the cultural landscape of India.

He said the driving force of the dairy sector in India is small farmers and added that the country's dairy sector is characterised by "production by masses" more than "mass production".

"India is the largest milk-producing country on the basis of the efforts of these small farmers who have one or two cattle. The dairy sector provides employment to more than eight crore families in the country," he said.

He said the huge network of dairy cooperatives in India is a unique example and these dairy cooperatives collect milk twice a day from about two crore farmers in more than two lakh villages in the country and deliver it to the customers.

Pointing out the importance of indigenous breeds, he said such varieties of cattle can withstand many adverse circumstances.

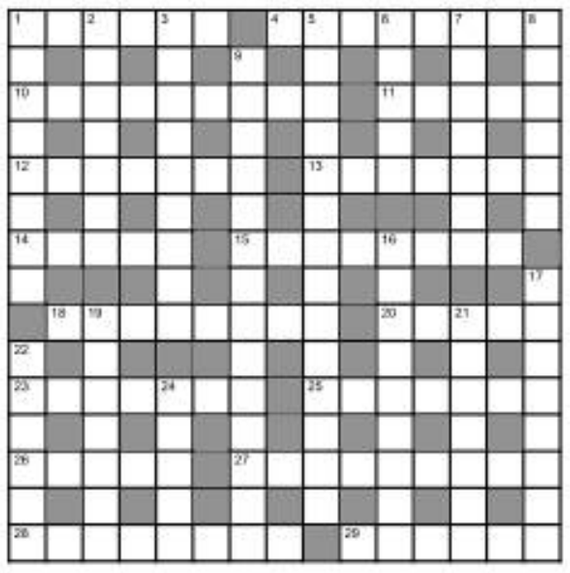
He said women have a 70% representation in the workforce in India's dairy sector.

"Women are the real leaders of India's dairy sector. Not only this, more than a third of the members of dairy cooperatives in India are women," he said, adding that with a value of ₹8.5 lakh crore, the dairy sector is more than the combined value of wheat and rice.

TH CROSSWORD + 13659

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*



Across

1 Danseuse – extremely boring, extremely reserved (6)
4 A ballerina achieving victory – she moves ahead (8)
10 See Irish cop frantically chasing boy (9)
11 Dark fish (5)
12 Carriages returning from Nagasaki or Tokyo (7)
13 One of eight vehicles failing to start in sultanate (7)
14 Rabbi's short farewell message (5)
15 Nerds sue stupid consumers (3,5)
18 Chaotic jam – halt outside a mausoleum (3,5)
20 Soft, thin board (5)
23 No good going through false, faked projections (7)
25 Country with showers after half of winter (7)
26 Tennis player heading off with a new agent (5)
27 Frees one's soul, troubled, accepting meditation finally (9)
28 Still in rebellion, holding value and courage (8)
29 Sickness from primarily navigating across uprising ocean (6)

Down

1 Man near lake leaving crabs, say, for family members (8)
2 Conflict in team mostly on the rise before tie (7)
3 Cattle in, say, European city (9)
5 How to clue old title for movie? (6,8)
6 A doctor about to turn yellowish (5)
7 Somewhat mediocre American substitute for milk (7)
8 Nationalist abandons position in gathering (6)
9 What the smartly dressed man did before marriage (7,3,4)
16 Star or sun, over a period, initially exploding (9)
17 Cows in our part of the world losing ability to move (8)
19 Spiritual leader, upset, not quite willing for merger (7)
21 Stimulates exhausted athletes, having become tired, lacking energy (7)
22 Surviving with nothing inside an apartment (6)
24 One escaping from region at war – he is doomed (5)

SUDOKU

	9		6		8			
	3	2		4	7		6	
		4						
			8		9		1	6
1		8		5		9		3
9	4		3		6			
						5		
	1		9	8		6	2	
			2		4		9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13658

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	9	5	1	6	7	2	3
7	5	6	9	2	3	4	8	1
3	1	2	7	4	8	6	9	5
4	9	5	3	7	1	2	6	8
6	2	7	4	8	5	3	1	9
1	8	3	2	6	9	5	4	7
5	3	8	6	9	2	1	7	4
9	6	4	1	3	7	8	5	2
2	7	1	8	5	4	9	3	6

FAITH

Stotra for salvation

It is held that the form of worship varies according to the Yugas. While it is dhyana in Krita Yuga, yagna in Treta Yuga, archana in Dwapara Yuga, it is stotra in Kali Yuga. In this context, the stotra granthas of acharyas are of great value to people in Kali Yuga as anyone can chant these hymns with devotion by way of worship and seek God. Among many such hymns, Alavandar's 'Stotra Ratna' is considered to convey the essential aspects of the Vaishnava Sampradaya contained in the Divya Prabandha hymns known as the Tamizh Vedas, pointed out Sri A. K. Sundarrajan in a discourse.

By divine will Azhwars were endowed with "mathi nalam" as Nammazhwar confesses. This is the highest knowledge about God, and moksha. It was the great acharya Nathamuni who was conferred the knowledge of the entire Divya Prabandha hymns through the direct grace of Nammazhwar himself. Nathamuni's foremost disciples handed over this sampradaya to his grandson Alavandar. As he imbibed the teachings, Alavandar was so overwhelmed by the esoteric truths in them and felt compelled to reveal the way to salvation for humanity that was revealed to him and thus was born the famous hymn Stotra Ratna. Echoing the sentiment expressed by the Vedas that none, not even Brahma, can explain the Lord's infinite glories, Alavandar humbly ventures to sing the glories of the Lord. For, He alone deserves to be praised though His ineffable greatness cannot be contained in words and thoughts. In this hymn, Alavandar shows that each one's only task is to seek the Lord's feet and entrust his sarira, atma and service to Him. Then he has done what is required of him for salvation. Though we may be overawed by His overarching Paratva, His Saulabhya is such that He accepts every sincere bhakta into His fold.

Ukraine claims more territorial gains

Kyiv says troops pushed Russians out of more villages in Kharkiv and reached the border

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KHARKIV

Ukraine claimed on Monday that it took several more villages, pushing Russian forces right back to the northeastern border, part of a lightning counteroffensive that forced Moscow to withdraw troops from some areas in recent days.

After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, Kyiv's sudden momentum has lifted Ukrainian morale and provoked outrage in Russia and even some rare public criticism of President Vladimir Putin's war. As Ukrainian flags began to flutter over one city emerging from Russian occupation, a local leader alleged that the Kremlin's troops had committed atrocities against civilians there similar to those in other places seized by Moscow.

Frontline column: Ukrainian Army tanks during an offensive at an undisclosed location. • AFP

"In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation," said Oleh Syniehubov, the Governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region. Over the weekend, the Russian Defence Ministry said troops would be pulled from two areas in that region to regroup in the eastern region of Donetsk.

More fighting

It was not yet clear if Ukraine's latest blitz could signal a turning point in the war – though some analysts suggested it might be while also cautioning there would likely be months more fighting. Momentum has switched back and forth before.

Still, the mood was jubilant across the country.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said on Monday that its troops had liberated more than 20 settlements in the last 24 hours. In Kharkiv, authorities hailed some return to normalcy, noting that power and water had been restored to about 80% of the region's population following Russian attacks on infrastructure that knocked out electricity in many places.

"You are heroes!!!" wrote Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov early in the morning on Telegram, referring to those restoring utilities. "Thanks to everyone who did everything possible on this most difficult night for Kharkiv to normalize the life of the city as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, in Russia, there were some signs of disarray as military bloggers and patriotic commentators chastised the Kremlin for failing to mobilise more forces and take stronger action against Ukraine.

Xi to visit Central Asia, first overseas trip in 32 months

China confirms President's visit to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's President Xi Jinping will on Wednesday travel out of China for the first time in 32 months, and since the COVID-19 pandemic began, as he makes trips to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

China's Foreign Ministry on Monday finally confirmed Mr. Xi's travel plans, which had first emerged last week. Kazakhstan on September 7 announced his visit while Russia the same day indicated a bilateral between their leaders was on the cards on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on September 15 and 16.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be attending the SCO Summit, and will see Mr. Xi for the first time in person since a November 2019 meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Brasilia. Both leaders, who had met 18 times between 2014 and 2019, haven't spoken directly since then, with ties strained amid the ongoing LAC stand-off.

Indian and Chinese officials have so far neither confirmed nor ruled out the possibility of a meeting in Samarkand. Days ahead of the summit, India and China last week announced disengagement of their troops from Patrolling Point 15 in Gogra-Hot Springs, one of the three pending friction points awaiting disengagement. India has conveyed to China it will not accept normalcy in ties as long as the situation along the LAC remains disturbed.

Wednesday's trip to Kazakhstan will be the Chinese leader's first visit abroad since a trip to Myanmar in mid-January 2020, days before the lockdown of Wuhan, where COVID-19 began. China has since followed a strict zero-COVID policy and kept in place international travel restrictions.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement on Monday said Mr. Xi will attend the SCO Summit and pay a state visit to Kazakhstan, at the invitation of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan.

UN: Taliban harassing our women staff

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan has accused Taliban authorities of harassing its Afghan female employees, urging local officials to respect all its staff.

"There has been an emerging pattern of harassment of Afghan UN female staff by the de facto authorities," the UN said in a statement. Three Afghan women working for the the agency were recently detained briefly and questioned by "armed security agents of the de facto authorities," it added.

Taliban released a statement, denying any detention of UN employees.

Pak. is grappling with food shortages: Sharif

He thanks Erdogan for dispatching aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is grappling with food shortages after deadly floods left the impoverished country's agriculture belt underwater, the Prime Minister told the Turkish President by phone, as authorities scaled up efforts on Monday to deliver food, tents and other items.

Shahbaz Sharif spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan overnight to thank Turkey for dispatching food, tents and medicine by 12 military aircraft, four trains and Turkish Red Crescent trucks. The International Rescue Committee estimated that the floods have damaged more than 3.6 million acres of crops in Pakistan.

A government statement said Mr. Sharif briefed Mr. Erdogan about the government's relief activities and sought assistance from Turkey in overcoming the "food shortage." Mr. Sharif also sought help from Turkey on reconstruction work in the flood-hit areas.

More than 6,60,000 people are living at relief camps and in makeshift homes after floods damaged their homes across the country and forced them to move to safer places. Pakistan, the country's military, UN agencies and local charities are providing food to these flood victims.

'Prolonged Rohingya stay impacts Bangladesh's stability'

Hasina speaks at meet of military officials from 24 countries

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Prime Minister said on Monday that the prolonged stay of more than 1 million Rohingya refugees in crowded camps in the country has become a serious security and stability concern.

"Apart from their own miseries, their prolonged presence is causing a serious impact on the economy, environment, security and sociopolitical stability of Bangladesh," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said at the opening of a three-day meeting of military officials from 24 countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Sheikh Hasina

The U.S. is the co-host of the gathering, called the Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar, along with the Bangladesh Army.

While the militaries of the participating countries are discussing disaster management, transnational crime, security issues and women's empowerment, Bangladesh is using the platform to highlight the issue of Rohingya refugees who have fled from violence in Myanmar.

Participants in the meeting, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, Japan, Indonesia, India, China and Vietnam, will visit the Rohingya refugee camps to see their plight, said Gen. S.M. Shafiuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Army chief.

In total, Bangladesh is hosting more than 1 million Rohingya refugees.

Iran says it is 'ready to cooperate' with IAEA

Probes are politically motivated: Tehran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran on Monday said it was ready to continue cooperating with UN nuclear watchdog while revealing a drone capable of hitting major cities in Israel, which has threatened to attack Iranian nuclear sites if the nuclear pact fails to fructify.

Speaking after European powers expressed frustration with Tehran's intentions to salvage the agreement, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "not to yield to Israel's pressure" over Tehran's nuclear activities.

The IAEA's Board of Governors meets on Monday, three months after adopting a resolution urging Iran to give credible answers to the agency's investigations into uranium traces at three sites in Iran. Iran says the probes are politically motivated.

On Saturday, France, U.K. and Germany said they had "serious doubts" about Iran's intentions to revive a deal curbing its nuclear programme in return for lifting of sanctions, comments that were rejected by Tehran and called "very untimely" by Moscow. "Iran announces its constructive cooperation with the agency as its obligation... While Iran has obligations, it also has rights," Mr. Kanaani said.

King Charles addresses Parliament

The monarch resolves to follow the example of 'selfless duty' set by the Queen

REUTERS
EDINBURGH

King Charles called Britain's Parliament the "living and breathing instrument of our democracy" and pledged to follow his late mother Queen Elizabeth's example in maintaining its independence in an address to both chambers on Monday.

King Charles arrived at Westminster Hall in London to a fanfare of trumpets with his wife Camilla, Queen Consort, for the address – part of a series of pageantry-filled ceremonies following the Queen's death on Thursday at her holiday home in Balmoral, Scotland, after 70 years on the throne.

Prime Minister Liz Truss and parliamentarians from the House of Commons and the House of Lords attended the address in Westminster Hall.

The Lord Speaker described the late Queen as "both a leader to and servant of her people".

Great expectations: King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort, sitting in Westminster Hall on Monday. • AP

In his address, King Charles said: "While very young, Her late Majesty pledged herself to serve her country and her people and to maintain the precious principles of constitutional government which lie at the heart of our nation. This vow she kept with unsurpassed devotion.

"She set an example of selfless duty which, with God's help and your counsels, I am resolved faithfully to follow."

King Charles, 73, who automatically became monarch of the U.K. and 14 other realms including Australia, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea on his mother's death, is known for expressing his views on matters ranging from the environment to youth issues.

He has suggested that as King, he might have to moderate his style, in keeping with the tradition that the monarch keeps out of political matters.

After the address, the new monarch left for Edinburgh to join his siblings for a solemn procession with the coffin of late Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen's coffin was taken along the Royal Mile in the Scottish capital Edinburgh on Monday in a silent and solemn procession watched by thousands of people paying their respects to Britain's longest serving monarch.

Under a sunny sky, King Charles and his siblings – Anne, Andrew and Edward – walked slowly behind the hearse, while the Royal Company of Archers provided the guard of honour. The oak coffin, was then carried into St. Giles Cathedral and the crown of Scotland laid on it.

Making New Zealand a republic not a priority: PM

British monarch is its head of state

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday that her government will not pursue any moves to change the country into a republic following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Ms. Ardern said she thought New Zealand will eventually become a republic, and it would probably happen within her lifetime, but that there were more pressing issues for her government.

The remarks were her first about the New Zealand republic debate since the queen's death, and reflect previous comments she has made on the issue. Ms. Ardern has also previously expressed her support for the country eventually becoming a republic.

Under the current system, the British monarch is New Zealand's head of state, represented in New Zealand by a ceremonial Governor-General. Still, many people argue that New Zealand won't fully step out from the shadows of its colonialist past and become a truly independent nation until it becomes a republic.

"There's been a debate, probably for a number of years," Ms. Ardern said. "But I don't see it as a short-term measure or anything that is on the agenda any time soon," she added.

Sweden's far right makes strong gains

Counting of votes to end by tomorrow

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

Sweden on Monday began a wait for the final results of its too-close-to-call general election, with an unprecedented right-wing and far-right bloc in position to wrest power from Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's Social Democrats.

The Scandinavian country has seen mounting political instability in recent years as the gradual rise of the far-right has upset the traditional balance of power in Parliament.

Sweden again found itself in a delicate parliamentary situation after Sunday's legislative election, with the right-wing seen holding a razor-thin lead over Andersson's outgoing left bloc.

"The close result in Parliament suggests Sweden is heading for yet another messy mandate", newspaper of reference *Dagens Nyheter* wrote on Monday.

With the vote deemed too close to call, election authorities said a final result would only be ready on Wednesday, when the last ballots from abroad and from advance voting had been counted.

Editorialist Anders Lindberg of daily *Aftonbladet* said it appeared "impossible for the left to win because the votes from abroad are... usually in favour of the right".

JUNGLE LODGES AND RESORTS LTD.
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
#49, West Wing, Ground Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01. Phone No.: 080-4055 4055 Fax: 080-4055 4040
Website: www.junglelodges.com e-Mail: accounts@junglelodges.com
No.: JLRL/2022-23/EOI/HMS/IND74 D: 09.09.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Jungle Lodges and Resorts Ltd., Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Implementation of Software As a Service (SAAS) based centralized Hotel Management Software at JLR Properties. The details of tender documents are available in the website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** The last date and time for receipt of tender document (through e-Procurement portal) is **10.10.2022 at 15.00 Hrs.**

For any further clarifications contact +91 80 23010900/01, +91 80 38013000, Email Support: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**

Sd/- Senior General Manager

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT12870 Date: 03.09.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal)

Bids are invited for the work of **Replacement of deteriorated MOM boxes of 245 KV 1600A double break isolators at Kadra Power House**, from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar nature of works. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 14,96,240/-**. EMD: **Rs. 37,406/-**. Period of completion: **Three Months** from date of handing over of site. The details of tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-proc. website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for online submission of tenders: **22.09.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs.** Opening of Part-I (Cover-I): **24.09.2022 at 10.30 Hrs.** and Opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II): **26.09.2022, 10.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (O&M) Kadra,** KPCL,Kadra - 581396, Uttara Kannada Dist. Tel: 08382-256344, Mobile: 9448793583. E-mail: eek1kadrakpcl@gmail.com/ seekadrakpcl@yahoo.in

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION BOARD
6TH Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-03 Ph:23349434 Fax: 23347670
No: KSEEB/DPIE/B3(PSAB)/1/2022-BSEC Dt: 12.09.2022

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Examinations, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, hereby invites e-tenders from eligible bidders for the **"supply of pre-printed answer booklets with overprinting of variable serial number on the same pertaining to 2023 S.S.L.C main and supplementary examinations (delivery of answer booklets under 'dedicated milk run route system')"** as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999 and per K.T.P.P. Rules 2000, through e-procurement portal only. Tender document may be downloaded from **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or **www.sslc.karnataka.gov.in** Tender brief details are as under.

1	Tender Commencement Date	12.09.2022
2	Date and Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting	22.09.2022 12.00 p.m.
3	Last Date and Time for Tender Submission	12.10.2022 12.30 p.m.
4	Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid	14.10.2022 4.00 p.m.
5	Tentative Date and Time for Opening of Commercial Bid	21.10.2022 4.00 p.m.
6	Approximate Value of Tender	Rs.6,98,10,000/- (Exclusive of GST)
7	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.13,96,200/-

For more details visit above mentioned office during office hours.

Sd/- Director, Exams.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client intends to purchase the property detailed in the schedule below from its owner **Sri.V.Sambasiva Rao, S/o. Late V.Sangamayya Chari**. If any person has any manner of right, title, interest, claim or objection for sale of the schedule property, may forward your objections along with documentary proof to the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of this publication. If no objections are received, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property and any objections received thereafter, shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing Site No. 294, Yelahanka New Town, A Sector, situated at Yelahanka Extension, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 80 Feet, in all measuring 4000 Square feet, together with One house thereon, including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 295
West by : Site No. 293
North by : Road
South by : Site No. 313
Landmark: Adjacent to Kanti Sweets

A. SAMPATH, Advocate
No.20, IIIrd Floor,
1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru 560 009. Mob: 9845151157.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the kind notice of the general public that my client Sri. Balaji S/o Sri. Munibyra Reddy, R/at. Subashnagar, Near Railway Station, Malur Town, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, has lost the original Sale Deed dated 28-08-1996, registered as Document No.906/96-97, in Book-I, Volume-1388, at pages 43 to 45, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Malurur, pertaining to the Schedule Property at the above address, on 02-08-2022. My client has also lodged a complaint in this regard with Malurur Police, on 05-09-2022 in Lost Report No.0311577/2022. Therefore any person/s having found this document shall deliver the same either to me or my client with due acknowledgment thereof. It is hereby further notified that any persons claiming through or under the said Lost Document, the claim shall be void-ab-initio and shall be doing so at their risk and cost. Any objection or claim by the custodian of the said Lost Document shall register the same with me within a period of 15 days from the date of publication with the undersigned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Industrial Converted Land bearing Survey No.55, measuring 1 Acre 30 Guntas, situated at VARADENAHALLI Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on the **East by:** Road, **West by:** Obalapura Village Boundary, **North by:** Land belongs to Veeraraju and **South by:** Land belongs to S.V.Sridhar.

B.C. SHIVANNAE GOWDA, Advocate
No.128, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Dr.Shivarama Karanth Road, Hanumantha Nagar, Bengaluru-560019. Mob:-9448516511.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, ಅಶೋಕಪುರಂ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570008
Email: cfwpmys@gmail.com Ph/Fax:0821-2483917
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ2/ಬಯಾಡಿ/ಯೋಜನೆ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-4/2022-23
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.09.2022

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-07/2022-23 (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)
(e-procurement)

ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳವರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಕಾರ್ಯಯೋಜನೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ರವರು 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೋಜಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹದ್ದುಬಸ್ತು ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ದಿ: 19.09.2022ರ ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 21.09.2022 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 23.09.2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದನೇ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 26.09.2022ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 28.09.2022 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 30.09.2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ/ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜೆಯೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು.

DIPR/DOMYS/MCA/467/2022-23

MARKET WATCH

	12-09-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,115	0.54
US Dollar	79.53	0.05
Gold	51,071	-0.11
Brent oil	94.82	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	938.50	31.65
Apollo Hosp	4481.60	21.25
Asian Paints	3432.20	-8.65
Axis Bank	801.00	16.15
Bajaj Auto	3870.30	21.70
Bajaj Finserv	17138.05	-67.60
Bajaj Finance	7286.90	106.00
Bharti Airtel	769.15	3.40
BPCL	342.60	4.10
Britannia Ind	3671.85	22.35
Cipla	1064.75	6.45
Coal India	231.50	-6.10
Divis Lab	3678.00	75.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4261.15	6.05
Eicher Motors	3538.95	65.80
Grasim Ind	1768.45	20.20
HCL Tech	955.55	7.05
HDFC	2419.00	-12.50
HDFC Bank	1493.55	-5.05
HDFC Life	578.55	2.60
Hero MotoCorp	2857.90	19.45
Hindalco	431.15	5.15
Hind Unilever	2580.40	-8.30
ICICI Bank	907.20	5.95
Indusind Bank	1136.85	-0.30
Infosys	1536.20	24.55
ITC	330.90	0.40
JSW Steel	686.55	-0.40
Kotak Bank	1924.00	-2.35
L&T	1961.90	12.15
M&M	1297.05	-4.20
Maruti Suzuki	8927.65	-18.35
Nestle India Ltd.	18968.20	-83.05
NTPC	166.40	-0.20
ONGC	134.00	0.00
PowerGrid Corp	223.95	1.05
Reliance Ind	2598.05	28.75
SBI Life	1306.00	8.55
State Bank	554.90	1.55
Shree Cement	24135.10	-370.50
Sun Pharma	887.70	-2.30
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	825.50	9.20
Tata Motors	451.00	5.30
Tata Steel	107.75	2.05
TCS	3242.95	25.30
Tech Mahindra	1150.10	23.45
Titan	2661.15	57.70
UltraTech Cement	6869.60	85.95
UPL	756.35	14.35
Wipro	422.00	4.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.32	79.64
Euro	80.39	80.71
British Pound	92.58	92.95
Japanese Yen (100)	55.58	55.80
Chinese Yuan	11.45	11.50
Swiss Franc	83.02	83.36
Singapore Dollar	56.79	57.03
Canadian Dollar	61.04	61.29
Malaysian Ringgit	17.60	17.69
Australian Dollar	54.48	54.71

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

India's rice export curbs paralyse Asia trade

MUMBAI

India's curbs on rice exports have paralysed trading in Asia, with buyers scouring for supplies from Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar where sellers are holding off on deals as prices rise, industry officials said. REUTERS

IT firm Happiest Minds expands Noida office

BENGALURU

Happiest Minds Technologies, a tech-solutions provider, announced the expansion of its Noida campus to accommodate another 450 people. Venkatraman Narayanan, MD & CFO, said, "NCR is a digital hub with a strong ecosystem of vibrant start-ups, successful enterprises, and education hubs which make it an important talent source for us." The firm also plans to expand in Bhubaneswar.

'India may need up to 28 GW in new coal-fired plants by 2032'

Estimate is in addition to 25 GW under construction: Central Electricity Authority

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India may need up to 28 gigawatts of new coal-fired power plants by 2032 to meet power demand that is expected to more than double from the current 404.1 GW, a government advisory body said, signalling more increases in coal use by the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter.

"It is seen that apart from under-construction coal-based capacity of 25 GW, the additional coal-based capacity required till 2031-32 may vary from 17 GW to around 28 GW," the Central Electricity Authority, an advisory body to the federal Power Ministry, said in a draft plan released last week.

Power surge: Annual demand growth over the five years to FY27 may be almost double the rate seen in 2017-2022. • AFP

India's annual electricity demand could grow by an average of 7.2% over the five years to March 2027, almost double the rate of increase in the fiscal years from 2017 to 2022, the plan said.

The share of coal in India's total power generation, however, is likely to fall below 60% by 2027, with India targeting the addition of 500 GW in non-fossil based installed capacity by 2030, according to the plan.

'Low per capita demand'

Although India is a major greenhouse gas producer, its per capita power demand and emissions are much lower than most developed countries, while it accounts for the lion's share of the world's additional renewable energy output, along with China.

A draft electricity policy report issued last year indicated India may build new coal-fired plants due to their lower cost, although it gave no estimates of how much capacity might be built.

Steps to cool food inflation will deliver in coming weeks: govt.

'Core inflation came in below 6% for fourth straight month'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry late on Monday termed the increase in retail inflation from 6.71% in July to 7% in August as 'moderate', and attributed it to an adverse base effect and an increase in food and fuel prices, which it called "the transient components" of Consumer Price inflation.

Core inflation, which excludes these 'transient components' of food and beverages as well as fuel and light inflation, was recorded at 5.9% in August, remaining below the tolerance limit of 6% for the fourth consecutive month, the Ministry emphasised. "Despite erratic monsoons and negative seasonality in vegetable prices, food inflation in July still lower than the April peak of the current year. To soften the prices of edible oils & pulses, tariffs on imported items have been rationalised periodically & stock limits on edible oils have been kept, to avoid hoarding," the Ministry said in a series of tweets. It later clarified that it was referring to food inflation in August. Stressing that inflation in "oils and fats" and "pulses and products" have moderated to 5.62% and 2.52% respectively, it said the Centre "has prohibited exports of food products like wheat flour/atta, rice, maida, etc. to keep domestic supplies steady and curb rise in prices".

"Prices of major inputs like iron ore & steel have sobered in the global markets. This, coupled with the measures taken by the Govt. to rationalise tariff structures of inputs to augment domestic supply, has helped to keep cost push inflation in consumer items under control," it concluded.

'Gazprom pays minor fine for undelivered LNG'

'GMTS was to supply 2.5 mt to GAIL'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A former unit of Russia's Gazprom is paying a 'meagre' penalty for the liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes it had failed to deliver to India since early June to absolve itself of all contractual liabilities, a top government official said.

Gazprom Marketing and Trading Singapore (GMTS), under a 20-year contract, was to supply 2.5 million tonnes (mt) of LNG to GAIL (India) this year, but has not supplied any cargo of LNG since early June.

The deal provides for penalty of 20% of the agreed-upon price in case of a supplier default

"The contract provides for a penalty of 20% of the agreed price in case of a default by the supplier," the official, who wished not to be identified, said. The price of LNG under the long-term contract comes to $12-14 per million British thermal unit and GMTS is paying 20% of this for the default, he said.

"LNG in spot market is being sold at triple the long-term price and so anyone would be happy to pay the meagre penalty and yet make a huge profit," the official said. With alternative supplies costing at least three times the price of GMTS shipments, GAIL has reduced supply to users by about 10% and is exploring options to advance some of the U.S. supplies.

Air India to take 30 planes on lease, expand fleet size by 25%

Carrier eyes premium economy class in five Boeing aircraft

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air India (AI) on Monday announced its decision to lease 25 Airbus narrow-body and five Boeing wide-body aircraft. This is its first major fleet expansion since Tata Sons took over the airline last January.

The aircraft include 21 Airbus A320 neos, four Airbus A321 neos and five Boeing 777-200 LRs. These will enter service from late 2022 and increase the airline's fleet by more than 25%.

The B777-200 long-range (LR) planes will join the fleet between December 2022 and March 2023, and will be deployed on routes from Mumbai and Bengaluru to the United States of America. This will include flights from Mumbai to San Francisco as well as to the two international airports in New York – Newark Liberty and John F. Kennedy. Bengaluru will also get thrice-weekly service to San Francisco.

The expansion comes five years after Air India leased 14 A320s. Its last aircraft purchase order was in 2006, which included 111 aircraft.

Industry watchers said the expansion would take care of the airline's near-term requirements until Air India places a larger aircraft order for its growth strategy for the next 10 years.

In a first for the airline, it also announced it would offer Premium Economy class on the five B 777-200 planes.

"The B 777-200 planes being inducted already have premium economy seats and will allow AI to try the concept that is fast catching on before they place a purchase order," said Ameya Joshi, founder of aviation analysis website Network Thoughts.

'Drop in forex reserves concerning as inflows lag'

'Central banks' hawkish moves bode ill'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves dropping to a two-year low is concerning as the pace of foreign inflows into the country's markets eases amid global monetary policy tightening, an economists said on Monday.

India's foreign exchange reserves declined to $553.1 billion in the week ended September 2, their lowest since October 2020 and down by $8 billion from the previous week, Reserve Bank of India data showed.

It was the biggest drawdown in reserves since early July, which analysts attributed to the RBI intervening in currency markets to help the rupee after it hit a record low of 80.12 against a surging dollar that week.

"Situation is getting worrisome because the Federal Reserve and other central banks continue to act aggressively and inflows into Indian markets in September are not as robust as August's," said Anitha Rangan, economist with Equirus, adding imports are rising. Foreign investors have bought $700 million in equities so far this month, after pouring in $6.5 billion in August.

'Smartphone sales led by smaller cities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Smaller cities are witnessing a notable growth in smartphone sales over the last few years and this demand is expected to continue, Flipkart said on Monday.

According to the e-tailer, there has been a more than 25% jump in smartphone sales on the platform from January to July this year. And, the growth was more than 40% in smaller cities such as Guntur, Hisar, Moradabad and Shahjahanpur, which indicated a strong preference for high performance premium smartphones.

'South saree market may touch ₹30,800 cr. by FY25'

Players expanding to tap market: study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The South India saree market is expected to touch ₹30,800 crore by FY25, growing at a CAGR of 6%, according to a study by Technopak.

The saree market in the southern region, with large players such as Pothys, Nalli, Sai Silks Kalamandir, and RS Bros., was valued at ₹23,200 crore in FY20.

The South market is contributing about 50% to the overall organised saree market of India, as per Technopak's analysis. Tamil Nadu led the South India saree market with an approximate 32% share and valuation of ₹7,400 crore in FY20, followed by Karnataka at ₹5,600 crore in FY20.

Saree trade officials said they believed the overall market in India was estimated to have crossed the ₹1 lakh-crore mark (about $15 billion) considering the size of the women population.

According to them, at least 33 crore Indian women spend an average of ₹3,500-4,000 a year to buy sarees for occasions including festivals and weddings. Players such as Sai Silks Kalamandir, Fabindia and Biba have announced IPO plans for growth and expansion.

L&T in talks to promote 3D building tech

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) is holding talks with leading builders in Bengaluru and Chennai to take its 3D Concrete Printing (3DCP) technology to the next level, said a top official.

"Our primary business targets are affordable housing, villas, military barracks, and single floor schools, post offices and factories," whole-time director and senior executive VP (buildings), M.V. Satish, said. "While the 3D printing technology is available off the shelf, our expertise is in preparing the special concrete mix."

Hybrid vehicles need tax incentives: Maruti

PV sales may touch 4 mn: Srivastava

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki pitched for a policy framework that was balanced and provided more incentives, especially on the tax front, for hybrid vehicles as well instead of being overly tilted in favour of electric vehicles (EVs).

"Yes. There is a disadvantage for hybrid vehicles against EVs [due to the difference in GST rates]," Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Director, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki, said

"Therefore, we think there has to be, on the tax front, some support for the hybrids as well."

Shashank Srivastava

Currently, the tax rate applicable on EVs is 5%, while for small hybrid vehicles it is 28% and for large hybrid vehicles 43%.

He also said the domestic PV market was likely to see the best-ever sales this year of almost four million units despite chip shortage.

Need law for data privacy: RBI's Sankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar on Monday pressed for a law to protect customers' privacy to ensure that monetisation of customer data is done in a responsible manner.

Last month, the Centre withdrew the Personal Data Protection Bill from the Lok Sabha. "Data can be monetised," Mr. Sankar said at an NCAER event.

"Therefore, data is significant value to business but at the same time, we will have to have... laws in place, followed by regulations, which ensure customers' privacy," he said.

SPORT

England completes a fantastic series win

Nine-wicket victory puts the seal on astonishing turnaround this year

Deserving winners: Stokes and his men take delight in the success of their endeavours. • AFP

SA IN ENGLAND

REUTERS
LONDON

Zak Crawley and Ollie Pope steered England to an impressive nine-wicket victory over South Africa at The Oval on Monday to complete a 2-1 series victory and put the seal on an astonishing turnaround in fortunes for the home team this year.

England started the day at 97 for no loss needing another 33 to win and picked them up in 27 minutes for the loss of Alex Lees for 39.

The victory made it six wins from seven Tests this summer, following a 3-0 beating of New Zealand and a win over India, all following an awful run that brought one win from the previous 17 Tests and led to the arrival of Ben Stokes as captain in place of Joe Root.

England had reached 97 chasing 130 before bad light stopped play on Sunday's fourth day.

The 100-run partnership came up in the first over on Monday, the 18th of the match, and was England's fastest ever for the first wicket.

However Lees, twice dropped in the slips in the first two overs of the day, fell lbw to Kagiso Rabada for 39 in the third after a review overturned the umpire's not out decision.

There was no further scare, though, as Crawley thumped a stylish back-foot cover drive to the boundary to finish the match.

It was the third time in a row the Test had effectively taken less than three days, after Thursday's play was washed out by rain and Friday was cancelled as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa – 1st innings: 118.
England – 1st innings: 158.
South Africa – 2nd innings: 169.
England – 2nd innings: Alex Lees lbw b Rabada 39, Zak Crawley (not out) 69, Ollie Pope (not out) 11; Extras (lb-6, nb-5): 11. Total (for one wkt. in 22.3 overs): 130.
Fall of wicket: 1-108.
South Africa bowling: Rabada 11-1-57-1, Jansen 7.3-0-40-0, Nortje 4-0-27-0. Man-of-the-Match: Robinson; *England won by nine wickets to win three-match series 2-1*; **England Player-of-the-Series:** Ben Stokes; **South Africa Player-of-the-Series:** Kagiso Rabada.

Women in Blue have to pull up their socks

Improved batting effort required for India to keep three-match series alive

INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISTOL

After an underwhelming performance in the series opener against England, the Indian women's cricket team will be eyeing an improved batting effort in the second Twenty20 International here on Tuesday.

The first game at Chester-Le-Street saw the Indian batters coming a cropper.

"We discussed a few things after the first game. We really need to match the standards of what we have achieved in the past. It was a bit disappointing but it was just another bad day," said opener Smriti Mandhana at a pre-match media conference.

Smriti reiterated what skipper Harmanpreet Kaur had to say after the first game loss, that the team really needed to improve its batting, especially in the middle overs.

Seasoned campaigner: Smriti is one of India's batting mainstays and she will have to step up again. • GETTY IMAGES

Smriti admitted that an insipid approach resulted in a disappointing performance and the team needed to put up around 160 to 170 to beat a quality side.

"Post the CWG, I feel it is Harman, Jemimah or my responsibility to take the team through in the 20 overs. But, given it is T20 cricket, we have introduced the likes of Hemalatha and Kiran into the mix. But, you have to give them time to perform to get to that level," she added.

Radha Yadav, whose diving effort in the second over of England's chase in the first game resulted in a shoulder injury, seems to be doubtful for the second game.

The squads:

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sneh Rana, Renuka Singh, Meghna Singh, Radha Yadav, S. Meghana, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, D. Hemalatha, Simran Dil Bahadur, Richa Ghosh and Kiran Prabhu Navgire.

England: Amy Jones (Capt. & wk), Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross, Freya Davies, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Sarah Glenn, Freya Kemp, Bryony Smith, Issy Wong and Danni Wyatt.

Match starts at 11 p.m. IST.

Fit-again Bumrah, Harshal back in the mix for T20 World Cup

Asia Cup batting line-up retained; Arshdeep's left-arm variety and death-bowling skill preferred to Shami's experience; Ashwin, Chahal and Axar the spinners

CRICKET

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel have returned to India's squad for the ICC T20 World Cup to be played in Australia from Oct. 16. The pace-bowling duo's return after injury is a major boost to India's hopes of regaining the trophy after 15 years.

Once Bumrah and Harshal – having recovered from injuries suffered while representing India – had cleared fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru over the weekend, their return to boost India's inexperienced pace line-up was inevitable.

While Bumrah had hurt his back during India's tour to England in July, Harshal suffered a rib injury during the following series in the West Indies.

As a result, the 15-member squad consisted of four pacers – with Bhuvneshwar and Arshdeep Singh being the other two, with all-rounder Hardik Pandya as the fifth pace option. The national selection panel, during its meeting on Monday afternoon, contemplated on recalling Mohammed Shami, who hasn't played T20Is since India's debacle during the last year's T20 World Cup.

However, Arshdeep's left-arm advantage and his exceptional ability to bowl yorkers at the death is understood to have tilted the issue in his favour. Shami, along with fellow-pacer Deepak Chahar, is one of the four reserves for the tournament.

The other two reserves include batter Shreyas Iyer and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi. The Rajasthan spinner was unfortunate to have been missed out, with the selectors acceding to the team management's preference for veteran offie R. Ashwin.

India will thus have three spinners at its disposal, with Ashwin joining seasoned leggie Yuzvendra Chahal and all-rounder Axar Patel.

Axar's inclusion was a formality as a like-for-like replacement for Ravindra Jadeja, who injured himself during the Asia Cup.

Despite the disappointing outing in the Asia Cup, the selectors have retained the same batting combination that India had for the Asia Cup.

Hooda makes it

Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik are the two wicket-keeping options, with Deepak Hooda being a deserving entrant for his first senior global event.

The selectors also announced the squads for the T20I series versus Australia and South Africa at home, starting next week. For the series against Australia, to take place from Sept. 20, Shami has been added to the squad, while Hardik has been rested for the South Africa series.

"Hardik, Arshdeep and Bhuvneshwar will report at the NCA for conditioning-related work during the course of the series against Australia and South Africa," said BCCI secretary Jay Shah in a statement.

Cutting edge: Bumrah and Harshal's return will add teeth to the Indian attack. • FILE PHOTO

The squads:

For T20 World Cup: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel and Arshdeep Singh; **Standbyes:** Mohammed Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi and Deepak Chahar.

For Australia T20Is: Rohit (Capt.), Rahul (Vice-capt.), Kohli, Suryakumar, Hooda, Pant (wk), Karthik (wk), Hardik, Ashwin, Chahal, Axar, Bhuvneshwar, Shami, Harshal, Chahar and Bumrah.

For South Africa T20Is: Rohit (Capt.), Rahul (Vice-capt.), Kohli, Suryakumar, Hooda, Pant (wk), Karthik (wk), Ashwin, Chahal, Axar, Arshdeep, Shami, Harshal, Chahar and Bumrah.

Onerous task to reclaim glory

Can Rohit's men replicate the feat of Dhoni & Co.?

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
CHENNAI

India's Twenty20 memories have been entirely garnished with the spices of 2007 when M.S. Dhoni's men won the inaugural ICC World T20. The Indian Premier League has its allure but talk T20 and inevitably it would be about a 15-year leap back in time when the Men in Blue prevailed at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

Cut to the present, India has a lot at stake as the ICC T20 World Cup looms ahead Down Under from October 16 to November 13. The sobering fact is that, after 2007, India has gone six editions without a title. And with the selectors having revealed their cards on Monday, Rohit Sharma's men have the onerous task of reclaiming the trophy besides silencing those whispers about India's reticence in ICC events.

But Australia as the host may help. The triumph in the World Championship of Cricket there in the ODI format during 1985 and 'Champion of Champions' Ravi Shastri driving around his champagne-drenched Audi have tremendous recall-value. So do the exploits in Tests when India toured Australia, with the last two series yielding historic victories.

India has batting muscle even if Rohit, his deputy K.L. Rahul and former skipper Virat Kohli are yet to fully prosper in unison. The last-named has reclaimed his form during the recent Asia Cup but all three still need to consistently hit the high notes while Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya can lend adrenaline. The management has done an 'either-or' strategy with wicketkeepers Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik. Perhaps it is time to also look at either purely as a batter and use both together.

The most heartening news is the return of Jasprit Bumrah. He remains the X-factor and, along with Bhuvneshwar Kumar, can mentor the pace attack. Left-arm speedster Arshdeep Singh offers a cool head at the death while Harshal Patel returns after recovering from injury.

In the spin department, R. Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal lend experience while Axar Patel steps in for the injured Ravindra Jadeja whose nagging left-arm spin, superb fielding and fiery knocks will be missed.

With Australia and South Africa touring India in the coming weeks, coach Rahul Dravid and Rohit can try their 'playing XI' ideas. But time will fly and on Oct. 23, India will take on Pakistan at Melbourne in its first match of the ICC T20 World Cup, and the dreams of repeating 2007 will surface again.

India's T20 World Cup schedule

The Men in Blue have been placed in Group 2 in the Super 12

Oct. 23	vs. *Pakistan*	1.30 p.m.	Melbourne (MCG)
Oct. 27	vs. *Group A runner-up*	12.30p.m.	Sydney (SCG)
Oct. 30	vs. *South Africa*	4.30 p.m.	Perth
Nov. 2	vs. *Bangladesh*	1.30 p.m.	Adelaide
Nov. 6	vs. *Group B winner*	1.30 p.m.	Melbourne (MCG)

Groups for qualifiers: Group A: Namibia, Netherlands, Sri Lanka and UAE; Group B: Ireland, Scotland, West Indies and Zimbabwe
The top two from each group will qualify
All times IST

Five successive victories highlight the Sri Lankan saga of revival and triumph

Captain Shanaka looks to carry momentum into meaningful T20 World Cup campaign despite the Island nation having to play the qualifiers

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Sri Lanka entered the Asia Cup without the fanfare surrounding India and Pakistan. But, at the end of the tournament, there was no doubt that the Lankans were head and shoulders above the rest.

The campaign started with a shock eight-wicket loss to Afghanistan, but after that reverse, Sri Lanka racked up five successive wins. The unit took out Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan twice en route to a sixth Asia Cup title.

Harsh reality

Nevertheless, the new continental champion will have to compete in the qualifying round to make it to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. This is down to the fact that Sri Lanka was ranked ninth at the cut-off date in November last year, just outside the bracket that earned direct entries.

> **Playing the qualifiers will be good for us, because we will get to play in the same conditions before the main draw starts**
> SHANAKA

For captain Dasun Shanaka, it is all about seeing the positives.

"We've done well in the last two years. We have the momentum. Winning the Asia Cup will help us in the World Cup. Playing the qualifiers will be good for us, because we will get to play in the same conditions before the main draw starts," Shanaka said.

Bhanuka Rajapaksa, whose unbeaten 71 rescued Sri Lanka in the final, spoke about what the triumph means to the people of a nation facing an economic crisis.

"With the crisis back home, these are tough times for Sri Lankans. We hope that we brought some smiles to their faces," Rajapaksa said.

The team is keen to bring back the attacking style of cricket made famous by their predecessors in the 1990s. This win could be the first step towards gaining the self-belief needed to achieve this dream.

There is fine personnel available to keep the team on the rise. Opener Kusal Mendis is an exciting stroke-player, while his partner Pathum Nissanka keeps it steady at the other end.

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana is a threat with the new ball, while left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka can trouble the best with shape into right-handers. Wanindu Hasaranga is a match-winner with bat and ball.

All for one: The success would have brought some joy to the crisis-ridden nation. • GETTY IMAGES

The team management is not afraid to experiment, if necessary. The gamble to include the inexperienced Pramod Madushan in the eleven for the summit clash paid off. The medium-pacer, playing just his second T20I, took out Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Iftikhar Ahmed to scuttle the Pakistan chase.

Shanaka is confident of acing the upcoming qualifiers and taking a shot at the World Cup trophy. If Sri Lanka can keep the winning momentum, this dream could turn into reality.

Booming guns

The batters and bowlers who made their presence felt at Asia Cup 2022:

Batting	M	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	100s/50s
Rizwan *(Pak)*	6	281	78*	56.20	117.57	0/3
Kohli *(Ind)*	5	276	122*	92.00	147.59	1/2
Ibrahim Zadran *(Afg)*	5	196	64*	65.33	104.25	0/1
Rajapaksa *(SL)*	6	191	71*	47.75	149.21	0/1
Nissanka *(SL)*	6	173	55*	34.60	115.33	0/2

Bowling	M	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	4W/5W
Bhuvneshwar *(Ind)*	5	11	5/4	10.45	6.05	1/1
Hasaranga *(SL)*	6	9	3/21	18.88	7.39	0/0
Shadab *(Pak)*	5	8	4/8	14.12	6.05	1/0
Nawaz *(Pak)*	6	8	3/5	13.75	5.89	0/0
Haris Rauf *(Pak)*	6	8	3/29	19.12	7.65	0/0

Alcaraz ushers in new era with gritty win

Beats Ruud to become youngest World No. 1 and Slam champion since Nadal in 2005

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz claimed his maiden Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open on Sunday, becoming the youngest man to ascend to the World No. 1 ranking and cementing his status as the poster boy of tennis' new wave.

The 19-year-old dragged his weary body to a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(1), 6-3 victory over Norway's Casper Ruud in the final. Alcaraz, the first teenager to claim the top ranking, is the youngest Grand Slam men's champion since his idol Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

On a day of landmarks, he is also the youngest champion in New York since Pete Sampras in 1990.

'Enjoying the moment'

"Right now I'm enjoying the moment. I'm enjoying having the trophy in my hands. But, of course, I'm hungry for more," said Alcaraz. "I want to be in the top for many, many weeks and hopefully many years. I'm going to work hard again after this week, this amazing two weeks. I'm going to fight for more of this."

Despite being in the vanguard of tennis' modern era, his performance on Sunday also contained elements of a bygone age – he won 15 points off 21 serve-and-volley attempts.

It was a gruelling tournament for Alcaraz.

On Sunday, he claimed the record for most time spent on court at a single Grand Slam, passing the 23 hours and 21 minutes it took Kevin Anderson to finish runner-up at Wimbledon in 2018.

Nadal was quick to congratulate the player widely seen as his successor.

"Congratulations @carlosalcaraz for your first Grand Slam and for number 1, which is the culmination of your great season. I am sure there will be many more," tweeted the 22-time Slam title winner.

The US Open is Alcaraz's fifth trophy of 2022 following Masters triumphs in Miami and Madrid as well as Rio and Barcelona.

Still in his teens, his career earnings are already close to $10 million.

Runner-up again

Defeat for Ruud, who was also vying for the World No. 1 ranking, was his second in a Slam final this year after he was routed by Nadal in the French Open.

With the roof closed, the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd observed a moving moment's silence on the 21st anniversary of the September 11 attacks before the final got off to a tentative start.

A day of landmarks! The 19-year-old Alcaraz dragged his weary body to a valiant victory over Ruud to become the youngest champion in New York since Sampras in 1990. • AP

THE RESULTS

Final: Men: 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 5-Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(1), 6-3.
Women's doubles: 3-Krejcikova & Siniakova (Cze) bt McNally & Townsend (USA) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Karman and Bouchard pass the first test

The two took contrasting routes to set up an intriguing second-round clash

CHENNAI OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

No amount of out-of-competition drill can quite prepare you for dragging your aches and pains through a full day of tournament action.

Chennai was hosting its first Tour-level tournament in five and a half years. Karman Thandi was playing her first Tour-level main draw match in four years. Eugenie Bouchard was playing her first Tour-level main draw match in 18 months.

Chennai seemingly passed the test. Karman and Bouchard definitely did, beating eighth seed Chloe Paquet of France 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 and Swiss Joanne Zuger 7-6(4), 6-2 respectively to set up a mouth-watering second-round clash at the WTA Chennai Open.

Monday will be extra special for Karman, for she beat a player ranked 250 places above her (109) for what was her second-ever 250-level match-win.

"This is very special, because it is at home," Karman said. "It wasn't an easy match. But I stayed put and fought hard. The crowd helped. I could feel the energy. Will power and grit to fight... that's what I showed."

Karman went up 3-1 in the first set only to lose it 4-6 by double-faulting on set point. But she shrugged off the disappointment relatively quickly, breaking to love at 3-3 in the third set, with two powerful forehand winners the standout shots.

Karman's serve came under pressure immediately after as Paquet earned a break point. But the Indian whipped a low ball for a fine forehand winner to get out of jail, and then levelled the match, courtesy two gritty service holds. In the third, Paquet was 2-0 up but Karman won six of the next seven games to coast to victory.

"I took a break [after the first set], refreshed and told myself that it was like love-all," said the 24-year-old.

"To find solutions to what was happening was the main goal and I could do it pretty often. That's how the match swung my way."

Earlier, Bouchard set the tone with a straight-set victory over Zuger to charm the sparse but enthusiastic crowd. The Canadian didn't play a flawless match, but shaded the tennis when it mattered the most.

Bouchard and Zuger traded early breaks before the former established a 4-1 lead. Bouchard's was the flatter stroke, hitting with near-zero net clearance. Zuger's tennis was more controlled, but not as penetrative.

But the tables soon turned as Zuger restored parity and even broke in the 11th game to serve for the set. But on set-point, Bouchard came up with a crunching backhand down-the-line return winner. It deflated Zuger and she never recovered.

The results (first round): Eugenie Bouchard (Can) bt Joanne Zuger (Sui) 7-6(4), 6-2; Karman Thandi bt Chloe Paquet (Fra) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Rebecca Marino (Can) bt Anna Blinkova 7-5, 6-2; Katarzyna Kawa (Pol) bt Astra Sharma (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; En Shuo Liang (Tpe) bt Linda Fruhvirtova (Cze) 4-6, 6-1, 6-3; Qiang Wang (Chn) bt Yanina Wickmayer (Bel) 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

Flying to the finish: Karman pulled things back in the second set before switching gears in the decider. • K.V. SRINIVASAN

Tuesday's order of play

- *Centre Court*
- Alison Riske-Amritraj vs. Anastasia Gasanova
- Ankita Raina vs. Tatjana Maria
- Magda Linette vs. Moyuka Uchijima

Jeswin Aldrin wins gold

Jeswin. • FILE PHOTO

SPORTS BUREAU

After failing to touch 8m in his last five meets, long jumper Jeswin Aldrin crossed the landmark impressively while winning the Golden Fly Series athletics meet with 8.12m at Liechtenstein on Sunday.

It was the first time, the 20-year-old Federation Cup champion (with a wind-assisted 8.37m) was crossing 8m in a competition outside India.

Triple jumper Praveen Chithravel, competing in long jump, was fourth with 7.58m.

Raza, McGrath are ICC Players of the Month

Raza. • AFP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India's Jemimah Rodrigues missed out as Australia's Tahlia McGrath and Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza were on Monday voted as ICC Player of the Month for August following their outstanding international performances in their respective categories.

McGrath became the latest Australian to win the ICC Women's Player of the Month award after helping her country claim the CWG gold in Birmingham.

LIVE TELECAST

WTA Chennai Open: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m. onwards
RSWS 2022: Colors Cineplex, Colors Cineplex Superhits, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), Six & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
England Women vs India Women: 2nd T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Ewing wins Queen City title; Aditi finishes T-58

CINCINNATI

Ally Ewing closed with a seven-under 65 for a 22-under 266 to beat Lin Xiyu of China by a stroke and take the Kroger Queen City Championship title here on Sunday. India's Aditi Ashok shot a below-par 74 (288) in the final round to finish a disappointing tied 58th. PTI

Costa joins Wolves on free transfer

LONDON

Wolves signed former Chelsea and Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa on Monday on a season-long deal. The 33-year-old has been without a club since leaving Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro in January. Costa scored 59 goals in 120 games for Chelsea in his previous spell in England, leading the Blues to two Premier League titles. AFP

Barcelona, Bayern in tantalising clash

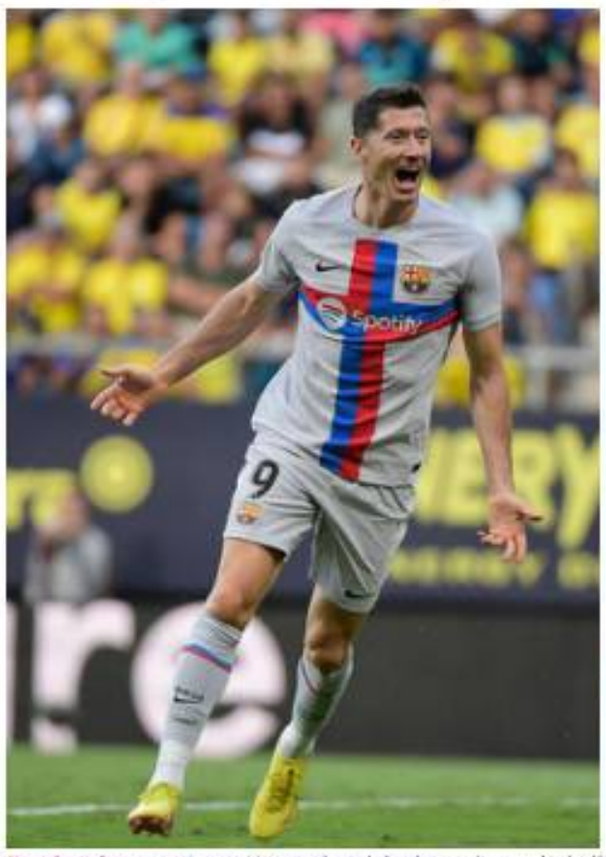
With Lewandowski in its ranks, Xavi's side will fancy its chances against Nagelsmann's men

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Robert Lewandowski didn't expect to meet his former club so soon.

After switching sides this summer, Lewandowski returns to Bayern Munich with Barcelona in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday.



Tough assignment: Lucas Hernandez, right, has to be on the ball to stop a marauding Lewandowski • AFP

On the prowl

Lewandowski is in top form, coming off the bench to score his sixth goal in five Spanish league games to help Barcelona win 4-0 at Cadiz on Saturday.

The Poland striker has only failed to score on his debut – against Rayo Vallecano – since he forced his move to Barcelona from Bayern in the off-season.

Lewandowski also got a hat-trick in Barcelona's opening 5-1 rout of Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League last week, taking his tally to 89 goals in the competition. He became the first player to score a hat-trick for three different clubs in the Champions League.

The Barcelona fans – who also fondly remember Lewandowski's four goals for Dortmund against Real Madrid in 2013 – are hoping he proves the difference against a team that has swept it aside in recent seasons.

Bayern humiliated Barcelona 8-2 in 2020 and beat the Spanish club twice by a 3-0 scoreline last year.

Bayern goes into its match after a disappointing performance in the Bundesliga on Saturday. It was held to its third consecutive league draw by Stuttgart.

Need to step up

"We have to up it by two gears, against Barcelona by three," said Bayern director Hasan Salihamidzic.

On Tuesday, Liverpool will hope to answer its crushing 4-1 opening loss at Napoli with a good result against Ajax.

Bayer Leverkusen hosts Atlético Madrid; Tottenham visits Sporting Lisbon; and Eintracht Frankfurt travels to Marseille for what's considered a high-risk game between rival fans.

Tuesday's fixtures:

Plzen vs. Inter; Sporting vs. Tottenham; Liverpool vs. Ajax.

Bayern vs. Barcelona; Porto vs. Brugge; Marseille vs. Frankfurt; Leverkusen vs Atletico.

Sportstar's first-ever North Conclave at Lucknow

It will feature a series of specially curated conversations

SPORTS BUREAU

Sportstar is set to host the first-ever North Sports Conclave at Lucknow on September 15.

The Conclave will feature a series of specially curated conversations on the existing infrastructure, scouting, training, and governance of sports in Uttar Pradesh, particularly, and North India in general.

Inspiring stories

The event also highlights inspiring success stories and provides a rare opportunity to get an insider's view on North India's sporting ecosystem, the role of the government in promoting sports, and more.

Girish Chandra Yadav, the Sports Minister of Uttar Pradesh will deliver the special address on stoking the Olympic dream in Uttar Pradesh while Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Government of Uttar Pradesh, will address the gathering on how the sports industry can help Uttar Pradesh's run to become a trillion-dollar economy.

World Cup-winning cricketer Suresh Raina, Commonwealth Games medallists Priyanka Goswami (race walking), Vijay Yadav (judo), Vandana Katariya and Lalit Upadhyay (hockey), and Paralympian Ekta Bhyan are among the many athletes participating in the day-long Conclave at Lucknow.

This edition will also see Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, President, Wrestling Federation of India, Commander R. Rajagopalan, former head of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme and Rachana Govil, former ED, SAI Lucknow in attendance.

The Conclave is sponsored by Hero We Care, A Hero Motocorp CSR Initiative.

The sports management academic partner is K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management and the associate sponsors are Indian Oil, Shiv Naresh and KSG.

Hyderabad ends Rajasthan's run

ISL champion to meet BFC in the semifinal

DURAND CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Indian Super League champion Hyderabad FC entered the semifinals of the Durand Cup football tournament, defeating Rajasthan United FC 3-1 in the quarterfinals here on Monday.

Nigerian goal-machine Bartholomew Ogbeche (sixth minute) opened the scoring for the ISL champion, with Akash Mishra (45th) and Javier Siverio (69th) getting the other two.

Uruguayan Martin Chavez scored off a penalty for the Rajasthan outfit in the 29th minute.

Mohammedan Sporting takes on Mumbai City FC in the first semifinals on Wednesday while Hyderabad go up against Bengaluru FC a day later.

Both the semifinals will be played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK).

Manolo Marquez started with Ogbeche and it was not long before the Nigerian got on the score sheet.

Borja Herrera delivered the curler from the left flank and Ogbeche got ahead of his marker expertly and drilled a header past keeper Vishal Joon, beating him at the near post.

Tight contest: Rajasthan would rue its missed opportunities against Hyderabad FC. • DEBASISH BHADURI

Gangte brace takes India to the final

Blue Colts defeat Bangladesh in the semifinals of the SAFF U-17 championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

India defeated Bangladesh 2-1 in the SAFF U-17 Championship semifinal here on Monday to book its spot in the summit clash.

Striker Thanglalsoun Gangte (51, 59) netted a second-half brace to clinch the win for India. Bangladesh pulled one back through a Mirajul Islam penalty in the 62nd minute.

Both teams created several chances in the first half, which were wasted.

The Blue Colts surged into the lead five minutes after the resumption as striker Gangte, who was lurking around the opposition box, received the ball just outside the area, and delectably sent it to the right of the goalkeeper. The lead was doubled seven minutes later through a counter-attack.

The Indian defenders thwarted a rival attack inside the box, and the counter-attack down the right caught Bangladesh unaware.

Eventually, Vanlalpeka Guite sent it into the box and Gangte made no mistake to tap it in.

Bangladesh pulled one back just a few minutes later, after it was awarded a penalty for a soft foul. Striker Mirajul stepped up to the spot and sent Indian keeper Sahil the wrong way.

BENGALURU LOCALS

Arun emerges the champion

M.S. Arun defeated Rohit Ravindran 6-3 (35-00, 21-59, 47-03, 38-07, 45-00, 04-45, 39-07, 26-42, 35-23) to win the Karnataka State Ranking 6-red snooker tournament.

In the battle for third place, Md. Shazaan beat Md. Ali 4-2 (19-37, 52-00, 51-01, 27-34, 48-29, 50-04).

Malleswaram Gymkhana in semifinals

Sharan R. Kanadam scored an unbeaten 55 to drag Malleswaram Gymkhana past Herons CC's 159-run first innings total to secure the lead and a place in the semifinals of the KSCA (Group I) under-16 inter-club tournament.

For Herons, Athish Karthik Kumar's six-wicket haul (6/27) went in vain.

The scores (quarterfinals):

Cambridge 331/8 decl. in 74 overs (Mohammed Waheed Qureshi 36, Samarth S. Hosoor 33, Mohammed Faiz 37, Nishchinth Parmeshwar 100 n.o., Pratheek 73 n.o.) bt Rajajinagar Cricketers 175/5 in 43 overs (Nitish Arya 66, Yeshan Gowda 29, Mohammed Faiz 3/20) [Decided by spin of coin after first innings was unfinished owing to heavy rains].

Jolly Cricketers 152 in 66.3 overs (Vaasav Venkatesh 27, K.S. Mokhit 62 n.o., S.J. Aadharsh 5/42) drew with Bangalore SC 351 in 77.4 overs (S.J. Aadharsh 40, R.V. Rohit 103, Arnavv Sharma 27, S. Rishabh Kumar 101, Aaditya Nilesh Khilare 3/63).

Topper: M.S. Arun, winner of the Karnataka State-ranking 6-red snooker tournament. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Herons 159 in 54.3 overs (Praneeth Shetty 37, Roshan Kumar 4/40) & 80/4 in 12 overs (Athish Karthik Kumar 28 n.o., Roshan Raju 33 n.o.) drew with Malleswaram Gymkhana 161 in 57.4 overs (Sharan R. Kanadam 55 n.o., Nanje Gowda 36, Roshan Raju 3/32, Athish Karthik Kumar 6/27).

Vultures 294/4 in 65 overs (Atharv Malviya 142 n.o., Arnav Mishra 73, Tejas Reddy 53) drew with Jupiter CA 96 in 35.5 overs (Bhuvan Shivkumar Basidoni 3/13) & 143/3 in 47 overs (R. Parth 87 n.o.).

Brace by Sanjib

Sanjib scored a brace as Rebels FC thrashed Friends United FC 5-0 in the BDFA Super Division league here on Monday.

The results:

Rebels 5 (Sanjib 8, 84, Dawanchwa Carlos Challam 12, Betskhemlang Thangkhiew 44, Ernest Addo 48) bt Friends United 0; Sporting Club, Bengaluru 1 (Arun Kumar 78) bt Thancos Students Union 0; BFC 3 (Kamalesh 20, Shighil 34, Moniral Molla 78) bt FC Agniputra 0.

Five-a-side football tournament

An all-India football tournament for under-15 boys and an Open girls tournament – both five-a-side competitions – are scheduled to be held on October 8 and 9 at the FC Deccan football ground (opposite MVITT).

The league-cum-knockout tournament is open for all schools, clubs, groups, academies and associations.

Entries close on September 20. Call 8095810030 for more details.